HACK/SLASH™

HORROR

AN IMAGE COMICS PRODUCTION CREATED BY TIM SEELEY & STEFANO CASELLI
WRITTEN BY TIM SEELEY, MICHAEL MORECI, STEVE SEELEY, TINI HOWARD, AND DAN DOUGHERTY
WITH ART BY DANIEL LEISTER, EMILIO LAISO, CELOR, MARK ENGLERT, K. MICHAEL RUSSELL, DAN DOUGHERTY, AND SARAH MITRACHE

HACK/SLASH

DELUXE EDITION

VOLUME 6

HACK/SLASH CREATED BY
TIM SEELEY & STEFANO CASELLI

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JAMES LOWDER

PRODUCTION
KIT CAOAGAS & DREW GILL

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ME WITHOUT YOU

One-Shot

SCRIPT Tim Seeley
ART Daniel Leister & Emilio Laiso
COLORS Mark Englert
LETTERS CRANK!
EDITS James Lowder

HACK/SLASH NAILBITER

One-Shot

SCRIPT Tim Seeley
ART Emilio Laiso
COLORS K. Michael Russell
LETTERS CRANK!
SPECIAL THANKS
Joshua Williamson & Mike Henderson

SON OF SAMHAIN

Hack/Slash: Son of Samhain #1–5

SCRIPT Michael Moreci & Steve Seeley
ART Emilio Laiso
COLORS K. Michael Russell
EDITS James Lowder
DESIGN Sean Dove
ART DIRECTION Stefano Caselli
SERIES DIRECTION Tim Seeley

RESURRECTION

Hack/Slash: Resurrection #1–6

SCRIPT Tini Howard
ART Celor
COLORS K. Michael Russell
LETTERS CRANK!
EDITS Tim Seeley

CAT & DOG INVESTIGATIONS

Hack/Slash: Resurrection #7

SCRIPT Tini Howard
ART Celor
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LETTERS CRANK!
PRODUCTION Ryan Brewer
EDITS Tim Seeley

RETURN TO HAVERHILL

Hack/Slash: Resurrection #8–11

SCRIPT Tini Howard
ART Celor
COLORS K. Michael Russell
LETTERS CRANK!
PRODUCTION Ryan Brewer
EDITS Tim Seeley

@%&#ED!

Hack/Slash: Resurrection #12

SCRIPT Tini Howard
ART Celor
COLORS K. Michael Russell
LETTERS CRANK!
PRODUCTION Ryan Brewer
EDITS Tim Seeley

OCTOBER

SCRIPT Dan Dougherty
ART Dan Dougherty
COLORS Sarah Mitrache
LETTERS CRANK!

ME WITHOUT YOU

Hack/Slash: Me Without You cover A by **DANIEL LEISTER**

CHICAGO.
THREE YEARS AGO.
THE MEATMAN.
IT HADDA BEEN THE MEATMAN.
THE MEATMAN WHACKED TOMMY THE GREEK.
BUTCHERED HIM, JUST LIKE THEY SAY.
OH! DON'T LOOK, MARI.
FOR GOD'S SAKE...
...LOOK AWAY.

CHICAGO.
TWENTY-SIX YEARS AGO.
SCREEETCHHCH
MAYBE WE LOST THEM.
YEAH, BABE.
MAYBE.
HE'S SO QUIET. HE NEVER CRIES.
HE'S SUCH A GOOD BABY.
MY SWEET, GOOD BABY.
SHUNK

OH NO NO.
SHHH. THEY CAN'T DO NOTHIN' NOW.
NEXT STOP, I WANT YOU TO RUN.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
THEY AIN'T GONNA CATCH ME.
SCREEETCHTCH
GIVE IT TO US.
Y'ALL CAN GO FUCK YOURSELVES, YOU BLOOD JUNKIES.
AND TELL BEANE SENIOR HE CAN FUCK HIMSELF, TOO.
WE'LL RELAY THE MESSAGE.

PLEASE, CAN'T YOU LET ME IN?!
PLEASE!
WE'RE CLOSED, SWEETHEART.
BUT IT'S IMPORTANT...
JEEZUS!
OH NO.
WAKE UP, BUDDY.
LAST STOP FOR THE NIGHT.
C'MON. THIS AIN'T NO--
OH GOD.

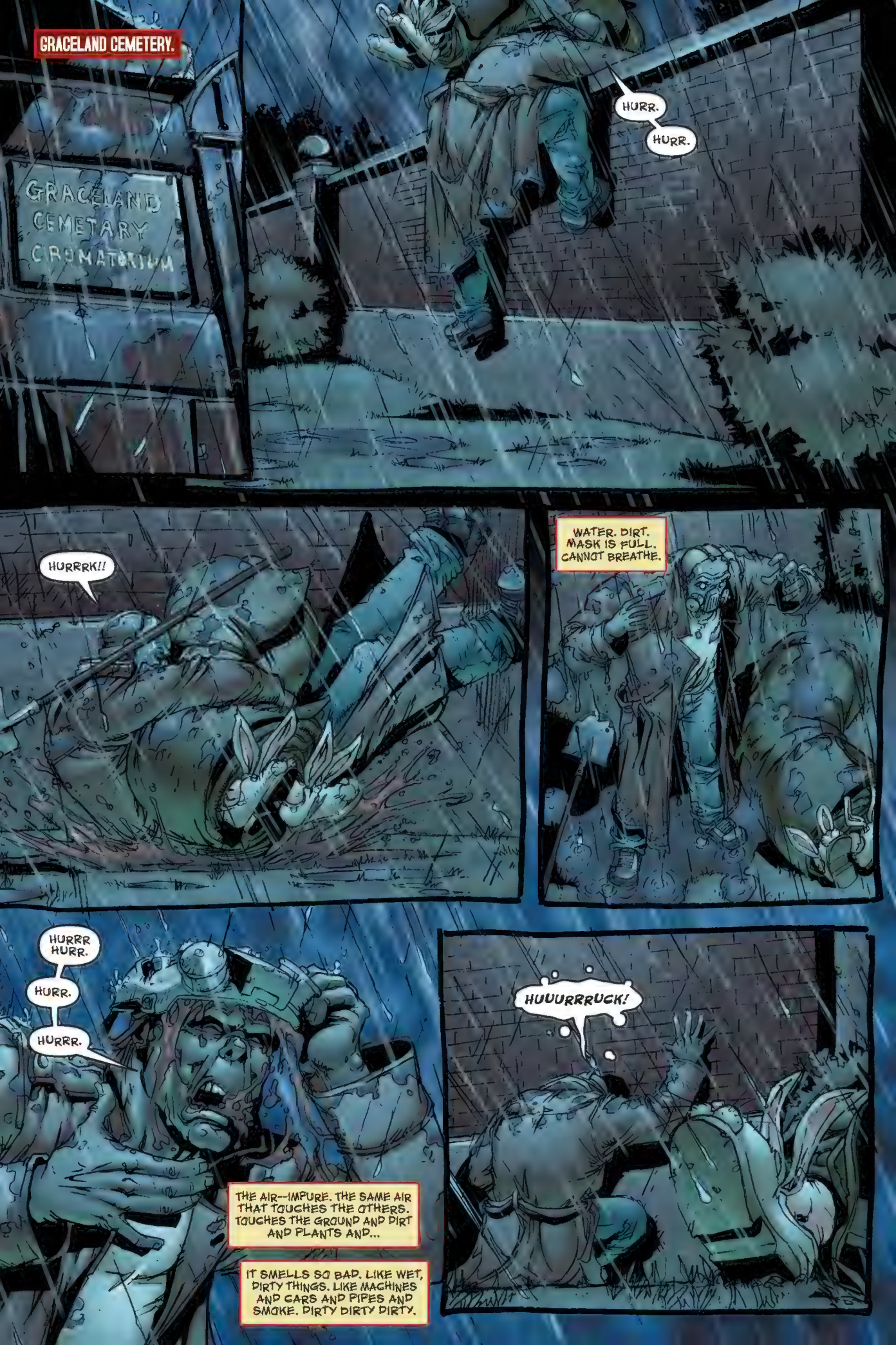
GOD. THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO KILL HER.
SHE WAS JUST AN OLD WOMAN.
UNNECESSARY, YES. BUT BLYTHE GOT A KILL TONIGHT.
I WAS FEELING A BIT JEALOUS.
NO!!
YES. YOUR DARKIE IS DEAD, DEAR KAELYN.
NOW, GIVE ME THE BABY.
I HATE YOU, SHANDY. I *HATE* YOU.
I HATE BLYTHE.
I HATE FATHER.
AND YOU'LL NEVER HAVE THE ONLY THING I'VE EVER *LOVED*.
NO!
BLAM

OH, KAELYN. MY BIG SISTER.
DAYBREAK.
EHN. FUCK YOU, MORNING, YES?
:KOFF:
:KOFF:
MWAAH!
EHN? I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU...
NO SCRAPS FOR YOU, SMELLY BUM!
MUH MUH?
KURVA DRAT!

TWO YEARS AGO.
I WAS LITTLE BLOOD-COVERED MONSTER.
SO YOU NAME ME VLAD, LIKE VLAD DRAGUL, YES? DRACULA!
THAT IS THE STORY YOU TELL ME, YES, BUTCHER?
IT IS MY FAVORITE ONE, BESIDES CHIPPY THE CHIPMUNK ISSUE TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY.
GRRRGGGLLL...
William S. Burroughs
A Book About Books!
NO. YOU CANNOT.
PLEASE...
HCCCHNNNN--
FOR MY WHOLE LIFE I HAVE LIVED IN THIS PLACE. FOR MY WHOLE LIFE THIS MAN HAS CARED FOR ME.
WHEN MY MOTHER THREW ME AWAY, HE TOOK ME UP. WHEN MY BODY DID NOT WORK, HE HELPED ME FIX IT AND GROW STRONG.
National G
THE BUTCHER SHOWED ME TO USE THE BLADES. HE SHOWED ME TO USE THEM TO MOVE MY BODY. TO CUT THE MEAT. TO EASE MY PAIN.

THE BUTCHER. THIS MAN WHO CARED FOR ME MY WHOLE LIFE...HE IS DEAD.
MORE MEAT
AND NOW I, WHO HAVE NEVER LEFT THIS PLACE, AM ALONE.
WHAT I FEEL IS NOT THE TIGHTENING OF JOINTS. THE PULL OF MUSCLES ACROSS BONE. THIS IS A NEW PAIN.
BUT IT IS PAIN...
...SO I WILL CUT.
RRRAANGH!!
AAANNNNGGGHH!!

I HAVE READ. I KNOW WHAT I MUST DO.
THERE IS NO CEILING.
THE AIR WILL BE BAD AND MY LUNGS ARE WEAK.
THERE WILL BE... OTHERS.
YOU TOLD ME OF THE OTHERS--HOW THEY FEAR ME, WHISPER ABOUT ME.
WHEN SOMEONE DIES OR DISAPPEARS, THEY WHISPER. THEY SAY, "IT'S THE MEATMAN."
I AM A MONSTER.
HRRMM.
BUT YOU MUST BE BURIED LIKE GOOD DEAD MEN SHOULD BE, SO...
...I MUST GO OUT.


GRACELAND CEMETERY.
GRACELAND CEMETARY CREMATORIUM
HURR.
HURR.
HURRRK!!
WATER. DIRT. MASK IS FULL. CANNOT BREATHE.
HURRR HURR.
HURR.
HURRR.
HUUURRRUCK!
THE AIR--IMPURE. THE SAME AIR THAT TOUCHES THE OTHERS. TOUCHES THE GROUND AND DIRT AND PLANTS AND...
IT SMELLS SO BAD. LIKE WET, DIRTY THINGS. LIKE MACHINES AND CARS AND PIPES AND SMOKE. DIRTY DIRTY DIRTY.

IN A COOL, DRY BASEMENT I HAVE LIVED, NEVER LEAVING. AFTER YOUR BURIAL, BUTCHER, IT IS IN A BASEMENT I SHALL STAY.
THERE WILL BE NO BAD AIR, NO WET, WORM-FILLED DIRT. THERE WILL BE NO WATER THAT FALLS FROM THE SKY.
AND THERE WILL BE NO...
...OTHERS.
I HAVE SEEN GIRLS BEFORE.
Here Lies
Thomas Christos Agyn
Husband
Father
Friend of

I HAVE SEEN THEIR STRANGE SHOES AS THEY WALK BY MY WINDOW.
I HAVE SEEN THEM IN THE MAGAZINES THE BUTCHER KEPT IN THE CHEST NEAR THE BATHROOM.
BUT NEVER. EVER. HAVE I SEEN ONE...
...AS BEAUTIFUL AS THIS.
OH, GOD. THE MEATMAN.
NO!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
ANNNGH!

SHIT.
SHIIIT!!
DON'T COME NEAR ME.
I'LL CLAW YOUR FUCKING EYES OUT!
YOU MONSTER!
I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO MY FATHER!
FUCK YOU, MEATMAN!
PLEASE. DO NOT CALL ME "MEATMAN."
MY NAME IS VLAD, YES?
I CAN HELP YOU.
I'M PART OF THE FUCKING AGYROS FAMILY, YOU HEAR ME?
IF YOU TOUCH ME--
SHH.
WE ARE WATCHED.

THERE WAS SOMEONE.
ALL WHITE.
VERY FAST.
ALL WHITE?
SHIT...
UHH, LOOK-- VLAD, IS IT?
IF YOU WANTED ME DEAD, YOU'D HAVE DONE IT ALREADY.
AND, FRANKLY, YOU DON'T SEEM SMART ENOUGH TO BE A PSYCHO.
SO HOW ABOUT YOU GET ME OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW?
I AM VLAD, YES?
I KNOW. WALK WITH ME, VLAD.

YE FOLLOWED THE AGYROS GIRL FER A FEW DAYS.
AN' YE STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHO KILLED OL' TOMMY?
NO, FATHER. BUT I THINK I MAY HAVE FOUND SOMETHING EVEN MORE INTERESTING.
MORE INTERESTING?
GIRL, HEADS OF THE OUTFIT ARE DROPPING LIKE TURDS, AN' THEY'RE ALL UNSANCTIONED KILLS.
YE KEN HOW MUCH I DINNAE LIKE NOT KNOWING THINGS.
I DO. THAT'S WHY I THINK YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THIS...
YOUR LONG-LOST GRAND-SON?

SOON.
NO...
NO...
TOO BIG...
WRONG COLOR.
CLOP CLOP CLOP
YES!
HELLO, MS. MARI!
I AM VERY GLAD YOU ARE TO BE BEING HERE.
BACK IN 3 MIN.
HEY, VLAD.
LOOK, UH, WE SHOULD GET SOMETHING OUT OF THE WAY RIGHT OFF...
THIS ISN'T A "THING," OKAY?
EVER SINCE MY DAD GOT KILLED, MY MOM HASN'T LET ME GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT A BODYGUARD.
SO, WHEN I WANT TO DO THINGS I DON'T WANT MY MOM TO KNOW ABOUT, I SNEAK AWAY.
BUT, Y'KNOW, AFTER THE OTHER NIGHT, I WOULD LIKE SOME PROTECTION.
YOU KEEP AN EYE OUT, FOLLOW A FEW STEPS BEHIND, AND DON'T BOTHER ME.
I'LL PAY YOU BACK BY BEING YOUR FRIEND AND SHOWING YOU AROUND THE CITY.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE TOO SHITTY A DEAL, DOES IT?
NO! IT SOUNDS LIKE A FAIR AMOUNT OF SHIT, YES?
CLOSED

AND SO I FOLLOW MARI.
I WATCH HER DO THE THINGS SHE DOES NOT WISH HER MOTHER TO KNOW ABOUT.
I SEE WHAT IT IS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE DO--PEOPLE MY AGE WHO DID NOT GROW UP IN A BASEMENT, WITH AN UGLY FACE.
ALL THE WHILE, I ALSO WATCH FOR THE WOMAN IN THE WHITE JACKET, THE ONE WHO SCARED MARI. I MAKE SURE ALWAYS THAT MARI IS SAFE.
THOUGH I LURK AND HIDE, AND MOVE LIKE A GHOST, I AM NOT A GHOST OR A MONSTER. NOT "THE MEATMAN." I AM A PROTECTOR. A HERO.
A FRIEND.

SOMETIMES, IT IS ONLY THE TWO OF US. SHE TELLS ME ABOUT HER LIFE.
ABOUT HER MOTHER, AND ABOUT HER FATHER'S JOB, WHICH GOT HIM INTO TROUBLE WITH BAD PEOPLE.
SHE TELLS ME HOW SHE FELT WHEN HER FATHER DIED. I TELL HER ABOUT LOSING THE BUTCHER.
SOMETIMES, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE DEATHS, WE STOP. THEN WE ARE BOTH QUIET. WE DON'T NEED TO TALK.
WE BOTH KNOW.
IN A COOL, DRY BASEMENT I HAVE LIVED, NEVER LEAVING...
BUT NOW, HERE I AM. AMONG THE BAD AIR AND THE WET, WORM-FILLED DIRT.
OUTSIDE, WHERE THE WATER FALLS FROM THE SKY.
I AM HOME.

HRRM. I DO NOT KNOW IF IT IS A GOOD IDEA.
AW, C'MON.
LET ME BUY YOU SOME STUFF. SOME NEW PANTS OR SOMETHING.
WE CAN GO TO THE BIG 'N' TALL STORE.
I TOTALLY OWE YOU.
I HAVE MY PAY. I HAVE YOU AS MY FRIEND, YES?
THAT IS BETTER THAN MANY, MANY PANTS.
HA HA. OH, VLAD...
...YOU SAY THE SWEETEST THINGS.

HRM.
WHAT?
SOMEONE IS FOLLOWING US. COME.
OH SHIT!
ARE YOU SURE?
YES.
TWO OF THEM. I SAW A FLASH OF WHITE.
OH, GOD. THE BEANE SISTERS.
I KNEW IT.
HRMM. THEY MOVE FAST.
VERY FAST--
HELLO, MARIANTHI.
BEEN A WHILE. HOW'S YOUR DAD?
IN CHUNKS?
SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
BLYTHE!

GLAD YOU REMEMBER US.
IT'S BEEN QUITE A FEW YEARS SINCE OUR DADS WENT TO WAR OVER THAT LITTLE BLOCK OF TURF IN GREEKTOWN.
HURT MARI, I KILL YOU.
WE AREN'T HERE FOR THE AGYROS GIRL.
WE'RE ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR WHOEVER'S BEEN MAKING PUZZLES OUT OF THE OUTFIT'S BOSSES.
NO, WE'RE MORE INTERESTED IN YOU.
VLAD, RIGHT?
I'M SURE YOU'VE WONDERED OVER THE YEARS WHY YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DO.
MAYBE WHO YOUR REAL PARENTS ARE AND WHY THEY ABANDONED YOU.
COME WITH US AND YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWERS TO ALL THOSE QUESTIONS.

THEY'LL DRINK MY BLOOD!
THE BEANES ARE FUCKING MONSTERS!
HMM. I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO BE ALL CHIVALROUS, VLAD.
BUT IF WE KILL MARI AND DRINK HER LITTLE BODY DRY, YOU SHOULDN'T BE UPSET.
THIS PERFECT, BEAUTIFUL GIRL NEVER CARED ABOUT YOU...
ALL YOU ARE TO HER IS A BIG, MISSHAPEN SHIELD.
HRMMM...
RRRRAAAGH!!
HUK.
SHUNK
EEEIIIGH!!

STUBBORN AND BLIND, JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER.
YOU'RE PROTECTING SOMEONE WHO SECRETLY HATES YOU, WHO DOESN'T REALIZE THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY TOO GOOD FOR HER.
YOU'RE BETTER THAN ALL OF THEM. YOU COULD EVEN BE ONE OF US!
I DO NOT WANT TO BE ONE OF YOU!
AGHK!
CHOK
ONE OF YOU?
YOU, WHO TORMENT THIS GIRL?
WHO THREATEN TO DRINK HER BLOOD?!
UGHK. BUT, VLAD, YOU ALREADY ARE.
YOU JUST KILLED HALF YOUR...HUNH... FAMILY.
THE BUTCHER SHOWED ME TO USE THE BLADES. HE TAUGHT ME TO USE THEM TO MOVE MY BODY. TO CUT THE MEAT.
TO EASE MY PAIN.
SHUNK

OH...
NO...
NO.
SLCH
SLSH
SHLICK
SPLUTCH
SPLUCK
THWUK
SHHH.
THIS SIGHT IS NOT FOR YOU...
...LOOK AWAY.
LET ME GO, YOU--YOU FUCKING MONSTER!!
NO, MARI! I PROTECTED YOU! I AM--
I AM YOUR FRIEND.

LATER.
I HAVE RETURNED TO MY BASEMENT. THE COOL, DRY BASEMENT, WHERE I HAVE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE.
I MUST SOMETIMES GO OUT. STEP UPON THE WET GROUND. BREATHE THE BAD AIR. IMPURE. THE SAME AIR THAT TOUCHES THE OTHERS.
BECAUSE I MUST STILL FIND FOOD TO EAT.
TWO NEW MOBLAND MURDERS!
I HAVE NO ONE TO CARE FOR. NO ONE TO PROTECT. I AM NO LONGER AT HOME OUT HERE.

I AM VLAD, THE BLOOD-COVERED MONSTER.
I AM "THE MEATMAN."
AND I WILL ALWAYS BE ALONE.
THE BEGINNING.

Hack/Slash Nailbiter cover A by **TIM SEELEY**

PORTLAND, OREGON.
THE STUMP COFFEE HOUSE.
THEN.
NOTE! THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE "HACK/SLASH THE SERIES" VOLUME 1, ISSUE 12.
CASSANDRA.
I BELIEVE WE HAVE FOUND YOUR TRIBE.
NO, VLAD. THESE ARE HIPSTERS. THEY DRESS LIKE THIS SO THEY CAN BE IRONICALLY UNCOOL WHICH THEY THINK IS, IN FACT, COOL.
I DRESS LIKE THIS BECAUSE MY JOB IS TO HUNT DOWN UNDEAD SERIAL KILLERS, WHICH MEANS MY CLOTHING BUDGET IS LARGELY SPENT ON PATCHING UP KNIFE HOLES.
BUT, AT LEAST I HAVE A JOB.

HURR. I AM ALSO UNCOOL. SO I AM COOL.
WHAT ARE WE TO DO NEXT?
WELL, FIRST THINGS FIRST, E-MAIL TO OUR HACK/SLASH INC. ACCOUNT HAS BEEN PILING UP FOR WEEKS, AND AS LONG AS WE'VE GOT WI-FI WE MIGHT AS WELL SEE IF ANYONE NEEDS US TO COME TO THEIR TOWN AND WASTE THEIR BOOGEYMAN.
HURRM. MOSTLY WHEN YOU ASK ME TO CHECK IT, IT IS MESSAGES FROM THE GROUPON OR PETTHEKITTY.COM, WHICH IS WEBSITE I SIGNED UP FOR BUT DOES NOT LET YOU TOUCH SOFT CATS, AND IS NOT ABOUT CATS AT ALL.
THAT EXPLAINS THIS ONE FROM FURRYBEAVER.NET THEN. HMM... THERE'S ONE FROM A GUY WE MET FROM THAT LITTLE TOWN THAT BREEDS SERIAL KILLERS.
YES. EDWARD WARREN. YOUNG YELLOW HEADED MAN OF BUCKAROO, OREGON. NOT FAR FROM THIS TOWN OF YOUR TRIBE, I THINK.
HE SAYS HE WAS DOING SOME RESEARCH INTO THE RECENT HISTORY OF BUCKAROO AND...
CASSANDRA?
WARREN THINKS MY MOM IS FROM BUCKAROO.

THE BUCKAROO MUSEUM OF SERIAL MURDER.
BUCKAROO, OREGON.
BUCKAROO MUSEUM OF SERIAL MURDER AND GIFT SHOP
Imperial
REVIVAL 8, 10, 12
SONO MORTI 8, 10, 12
HURRM.
JESUS PIECES.
LUNCH LADY GRAVY
Pepe Face Melting Hot
YA SEE SOMETHING YA LIKE?
THIS IS... FUCKED UP.
WELL, THAT THERE WASN'T MY IDEA.
I MEAN, THE GRAVY WAS, BUT INCORPORATING THAT OUTTA-STATE STUFF WAS ALL *PEDRO*.
SEE, I THINK IT DILUTES THE BRAND. PEOPLE COME TO BUCKAROO FOR A SOUVENIR OF *OUR* SERIAL KILLERS. THEY WANT THOSE *DAIRY STATE NUTJOBS*, THEY'LL GO TO *WISCONSIN* RIGHT?

THEN AGAIN, THE WHOLE GIFT SHOP IDEA IS MINE. HELL, IF IT WAS UP TO PEDRO THIS PLACE WOULDA BEEN A MEXICAN WRESTLING MUSEUM.
CAN YA IMAGINE?
AIN'T ENOUGH LATINOS IN BUCKAROO TO OPEN A PROPER TACO STAND MUCH LESS A SHRINE TO EL SANTO AND BLUE DEMON.
THAT'S WHY I'M THE BRAINS, AND THE BIG MEXICAN IS THE BRAWN OF THIS OPERATION--
=AHEM=
HELLO. WELCOME TO MY MUSEUM OF HORRORS. MY NAME IS PEDRO MIRAMONTES.
NO... I DON'T... SORRY.
I DON'T REALLY LIKE... BEING TOUCHED.

HM. HE SAID YOU WOULD REMIND ME OF HIM.
AND YOU MUST BE VLAD. EDWARD TOLD ME ABOUT YOU BOTH, AND TO EXPECT YOU.
YOU HAVE A POWERFUL GRIP, MY FRIEND.
WAIT, I THOUGHT WE WERE MEETING WARREN. WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
OUR MUTUAL ASSOCIATE HAD TO TRAVEL TO RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA UNEXPECTEDLY, AND QUIETLY, FOR HIS RESEARCH. I'M SURE YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, UNDERSTAND.
EDWARD AND I SHARE A PASSION FOR THE DARK HISTORY OF OUR BELOVED TOWN. I AM TO ACT AS YOUR CONTACT.
YEAH, WE DON'T DO STRANGERS. FUCK YOU, AND YOUR GODDAMN GRAVY.
SO, MS. HACK, YOU DON'T CARE TO HEAR ABOUT WHAT EDWARD DISCOVERED ABOUT YOUR MOTHER?
PERHAPS YOU'D BE MORE INTERESTED TO LEARN WHAT HE FOUND ABOUT JACK HACK... YOUR FATHER?

LATER.
I DO NOT LIKE THIS. IT IS MORE UNCOOL THAN ME.
LET'S NOT GO THAT FAR, BUT A MYSTERIOUS STRANGER INVITING US TO A CREEPY ABANDONED BARN ON A FOGGY NIGHT IS THE BEGINNING OF EVERY HORROR STORY INVOLVING VINCENT PRICE.
WE SHOULD LEAVE.
NO... I NEED TO KNOW. WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND MY DAD. PEDRO SAID EDWARD WARREN TOLD HIM HE'S BURIED HERE. THAT HE DIED WHILE TRYING TO FIND OUT IF MY MOM WAS ANOTHER OF BUCKAROO'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO MASS MURDER.
EDWARD WARREN IS FROM THIS TOWN... A PLACE THAT MANAGED TO CREATE FIFTEEN SERIAL KILLERS. MAYBE MORE. EDWARD KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE LOOKED AT AS DAMAGED. AS DANGEROUS. AS AN HEIR TO THE WORST CRIME A PERSON CAN COMMIT.
AND HE KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO SHARE EVERYONE'S SUSPICIONS. HE KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE AFRAID THAT YOU MIGHT BECOME A MONSTER.
IF HE THOUGHT I COULD FIND OUT--HE WOULDN'T...
HRRM. YOU TRUST HIM. I KNOW THIS IS A NOT A PRESENT YOU GIVE OFTEN. YES.
BUT IF I SEE THIS VINCENT PRICE MAN, I WILL BEGIN STABBING.

I AM GLAD YOU CAME. I ASSURE YOU I HAVE NOTHING BUT RESPECT FOR YOU, AND WAS EAGER TO ASSIST EDWARD. COME THIS WAY.
EDWARD TELLS ME THAT YOUR FATHER ABANDONED YOU AT A YOUNG AGE. THIS I CAN RELATE TO. WHEN MY FATHER LEFT, I WAS RAISED BY THE TELEVISION. MY IDOLS AND TEACHERS WERE THE GREATS OF WRESTLING... THE MASKED MEN OF LUCHA LIBRE.
I USED TO PRETEND IT WAS MY FATHER BENEATH THOSE MASKS. I CONVINCED MYSELF HE HAD TO LEAVE ME, NOT BECAUSE HE WAS DISAPPOINTED IN ME, BUT BECAUSE HE WAS CALLED AWAY TO A HIGHER DESTINY.
HERE. THIS IS WHAT YOU SEEK.
IS THIS MY DAD'S GRAVE?
HRRM. THERE IS A NAME ON THE TOMBSTONE...
IT SAYS...
OH--

VLAD!
KRAK
I AM GONNA SLICE YOU FROM PENCIL-DICK TO PENCIL-STACHE.
AH, MY DEAR CASSANDRA HACK. YOU'VE SPENT TOO MUCH TIME FACING THOSE SIMPLE-MINDED *MUERTO VIVANTE*. "*SLASHERS*."
FWAK

YOU'VE COME TO UNDERESTIMATE THE LIVING THAT DESPISE THE LIVING.
RRRAAH!
YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN OUR APTITUDE FOR RESOURCEFULNESS.
AND OUR CAPACITY FOR TREACHERY.
THWUD
UNF!
CRNCH

NNNGH. VLAD...
NOW, MS. HACK. NOW, YOU HAVE ENTERED MY TRUE MUSEUM OF HORRORS.
WHEN I DISCOVERED THIS PLACE, I KNEW WHAT IT WAS MEANT TO BE: A SHRINE TO THE GREATEST MEN AND WOMEN BUCKAROO HAS PRODUCED.
HERE, I HAVE BUILT A RELIQUARY FOR PILGRIMS, WHERE THOSE THAT ARE MONSTERS INSIDE CAN SEE THOSE THAT ACCEPTED WHAT THEY ARE, AND DIED FOR IT.
YOUR PARTNER? HE SHALL BE SKINNED AND MOUNTED. A CURIOSITY. A SIDESHOW ATTRACTION.
BUT YOU, MS. HACK SHALL BE ONE OF MY PRIZE DISPLAYS. A WOMAN WHO REFUSED HER DESTINY.
A WOMAN EDWARD WARREN SAID HAD TO BE ELIMINATED BECAUSE SHE IS AN ABOMINATION WHO WOULD HAVE TRIED TO STOP HIS WORK SOMEDAY.

CASSIE HACK, YOU WERE A MONSTER THAT TRIED TO TAKE HER HATE OUT UPON OTHER MONSTERS, AND DIED FOR IT...
...AT THE HANDS OF ONE OF BUCKAROO'S MOST PROLIFIC SPAWN...
LUCHA ELIMINADOR!
YOU SEE, CASSIE HACK, I AM A PRODUCT OF BUCKAROO. I KNEW THIS WHEN I BECAME A TEENAGER.
IT WAS THEN THAT I STOPPED IMAGINING MY FATHER'S FACE BENEATH THE LUCHA MASKS TO COMFORT ME.
INSTEAD I BEGAN TO IMAGINE OTHER MASKS. THE ONES I'D SEE ON THE NEWS. IN THE NEWSPAPERS. THOSE BELONGING TO THE BUCKAROO BUTCHERS.
BOOKBURNER. THE WTF KILLER. THE WHISTLER.

INSTEAD OF IMAGINING MY FATHER'S FACE BENEATH IT, I IMAGINED MY OWN.
BECAUSE IT WAS NOT HIM WHO WAS CALLED TO A HIGHER DESTINY, THE COWARD.
GRAVY?
IT WAS I--
AAIIGH!

YEAH. GRAVY.
I HAD IT IN MY POCKET.
I GUESS I WANTED A SOUVENIR TOO.
AAIII--
SHLIK

VLAD? ARE YOU OKAY? HANG IN THERE BUDDY.
CASSANDRA. I--I THINK WE HAVE FOUND YOUR TRIBE.
NO VLAD, THAT WAS AT THE COFFEE SHOP. BACK IN PORTLAND. WE'RE ON THE ROAD NOW. WE'RE GOING TO FIND EDWARD WARREN.
WE'RE GOING TO DO VERY BAD THINGS TO HIM FOR SETTING US UP. FOR LYING TO US. FOR MAKING ME THINK I COULD TRUST HIM.
MY MOM ISN'T FROM HERE. MY DAD WAS NEVER HERE. WARREN LIED.
WHATEVER THE HELL THIS TOWN IS, WHATEVER MAKES IT'S PEOPLE INTO KILLERS, HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US.
AND THESE PEOPLE SURE AS HELL AREN'T MY TRIBE.
BIRTHPLACE OF SERIAL KILLERS
WELCOME TO BUCKAROO
HEY, THERE'S MS. HACK...

HUH. OUTTATOWNERS, ALWAYS IN A RUSH TO GET EVERYWHERE.
I WONDER WHY SHE WAS DRIVIN' LIKE A BAT OUTTA HELL--OH.
SON OF A BITCH.
POOR BASTARD.
HAVE TO CLEAN THIS MESS UP BEFORE SHERIFF CRANE SEES IT.
WELL, ANYHOW...
THE MURDER STORE. HOME OF KILLER DEALS.
NOW ALLS I NEED IS A NEW PARTNER.

I'M HERE AT RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT WHERE A LARGE CROWD HAS GATHERED...
...IN THE HOPES OF CATCHING A SIGHT OF EDWARD WARREN, THE FBI'S MAIN SUSPECT IN THE NOTORIOUS AND GRUESOME "NAILBITER MURDERS," AS HE IS ESCORTED INTO FEDERAL CUSTODY.
"EDWARD KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE LOOKED AT AS DAMAGED.
"AS DANGEROUS.
YOU SONAOVABITCH. YOU SET ME UP.
"AS AN HEIR TO THE WORST CRIME A PERSON CAN COMMIT.
"AND HE KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO SHARE EVERYONE'S SUSPICIONS.
"HE KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE AFRAID THAT YOU MIGHT BECOME A MONSTER."
FIN.

Hack/Slash: Son of Samhain #1
cover A by **STEFANO CASELLI**

IT WAS A TIME BEFORE MYTH.
A TIME OF DARKNESS AND BLOODSHED.
A TIME...
...OF MONSTERS.
THEY WARRED WITH THE HUMANS, THE BATTLES STRETCHING ACROSS GENERATIONS.
THE HUMANS FOUGHT FOR THEIR HOMES, THEIR FAMILIES, THEIR CLAIM TO THE PLANET.
THE MONSTERS FOUGHT FOR THEIR GOD. THEY FOUGHT FOR...

ATTAN-SOOLU.
ATTAN-SOOLU THE MONSTER GOD.
ATTAN-SOOLU THE IMMORTAL. OR SO THE MONSTERS BELIEVED.
THE EVOLVING HUMANS GREW MORE CLEVER. THEY DEVELOPED NEW TOOLS, NEW WEAPONS.
NEW SCHEMES.

THROUGH THEIR CUNNING AND THEIR RELENTLESS WILL TO SURVIVE, THE HUMANS DEFEATED ATTAN-SOOLU.
THE MONSTERS THEY DIDN'T SLAUGHTER WERE DRIVEN DEEP BENEATH THE EARTH.
THE HUMANS TRAPPED THEM THERE, PRESUMABLY FOREVER.
BUT THE HUMANS WOULD SOON LEARN THAT THE EVIL ATTAN-SOOLU EMBODIED CANNOT BE EXTINGUISHED.
IT ABIDES, WAITING TO BE REAWAKENED.

HACK

catcurio_75@
dd new add
Cat
Curio
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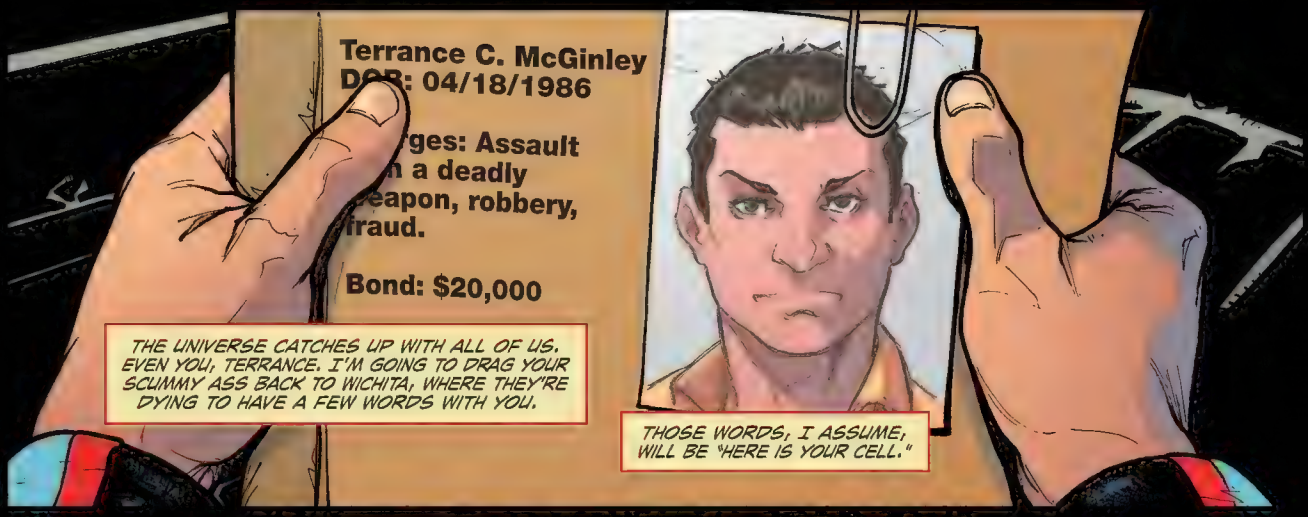
OFFERED
HELP WANTED
omeone for general help
our.
0109-1975
nced BOUNTY HUNTER
5-2102-1978
RS
idates must have experie
riving
TEXA
STATE LINE

LAREDO, TEXAS.
THIS IS NOT ANY FUN.
AT.
ALL.
CRANK'S
cheapo booze
AT FIRST GLANCE, BOUNTY HUNTING SEEMED LIKE IT WOULD ENTAIL A LOT MORE...HUNTING.
YOU WATCH AND YOU WAIT, YOU WAIT AND YOU WATCH. THAT'S THE GIG.
IT'S ALL DIVE BARS, CHEAP MOTELS, AND SHITTY DINERS. PLACES OFF THE GRID THAT DEAL ONLY IN CASH, THAT DON'T ASK QUESTIONS AND EXPECT YOU TO DO THE SAME.
...THE WIFE'S GONNA BE NONE TOO HAPPY WHEN I GET HOME AND PUKE ON THE RUG...
FUGITIVES--SMART FUGITIVES--GO TO THESE PLACES TO BLEND IN AND VANISH. IT'S LIKE BEING BAPTIZED AND REBORN IN THE RIVER, HALLELUJAH.
I'VE NABBED BOUNTIES THAT, NO BULLSHIT, ALMOST HAD ME CONVINCED I HAD THE WRONG PERSON.
THEY ALMOST FOOLED ME BECAUSE, IN A WAY, THEY ACTUALLY BELIEVED IT WAS TRUE. THAT'S HOW FAR AWAY THEY'D GOTTEN FROM THEMSELVES.
HEY THERE, SEXY.
BUT PLAYING MAKE BELIEVE CAN ONLY GO ON SO LONG .


Terrance C. McGinley
DOB: 04/18/1986
ges: Assault
a deadly
eapon, robbery,
fraud.
Bond: $20,000
THE UNIVERSE CATCHES UP WITH ALL OF US. EVEN YOU, TERRANCE. I'M GOING TO DRAG YOUR SCUMMY ASS BACK TO WICHITA, WHERE THEY'RE DYING TO HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH YOU.
THOSE WORDS, I ASSUME, WILL BE "HERE IS YOUR CELL."

NEXT TIME, YOU'RE BUYING!
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK.

GOTCHA, TERRANCE, YOU RAT BASTARD.
VRRRMMMMM

CRANK'S
cheap booze

FANTASTIC. ANOTHER TRAILER PARK.
THERE'S A PAST LIFE WHERE I LIVED MUCH, MUCH TOO WELL. IT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION.
ANY TIME NOW, TERRANCE. GO AHEAD AND LET YOUR HEAD HIT THE PILLOW...
AND... NIGHT-NIGHT.
ON THE PLUS SIDE, YOUR CELL IN WICHITA WON'T BE MUCH OF A DOWNGRADE FROM THIS SHITHOLE.
WHAT THE--?
CLICK

WELL, THIS IS A FIRST.
MMMMPH!
MMMMMMMMPH!
MMMMMMMMPPP!
I'M GUESSING THERE'S A WEIRD, MAYBE EVEN KINKY STORY THAT GOES WITH THIS.
I'M GOING TO REMOVE THIS SOCK, TERRANCE. YOU'RE STILL GOING TO JAIL, BUT FIRST, I SUPPOSE, YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHO DID THI--
SLAM
THAT'D BE ME, DARLIN'.
THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU A GIFT BY WAY OF AN INTRODUCTION. KIND OF AN OFFERING, I SUPPOSE.
LET'S JUST GET IT OUT THERE: I'M AIMIN' TO IMPRESS YOU. NAME'S DELROY, AND IT'S A REAL PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, MS. HACK.
WELL, WE'LL JUST SEE ABOUT *THAT.*

KWUMPF
EASY THERE, FEISTY.
I HEARD YOU WERE EDGY BUT, MAN ALIVE, YOU COULD USE SOME TIME WITH A STRESS BALL.
I'M GIVING YOU TO FIVE TO SAY SOMETHING INTERESTING.
AND I'M STARTING THE COUNT AT FOUR.
WELL, SO MUCH FOR CATCHING FLIES WITH HONEY.
HERE'S THE CHASE: YOU AND I HAVE MUTUAL, LET'S SAY, LIFESTYLES.
I'M HOPING TO BRING YOU BACK INTO THE FOLD, BACK TO YOUR OLD JOB.

I'M ASSUMING YOU DON'T MEAN THAT D.Q. GIG FROM WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN.
NO, I MOST CERTAINLY DO NOT. I MEAN BATTLING THE FORCES OF DARKNESS.
IN THAT CASE, PARDNER, YOU CAN HEAD BACK DOWN WHATEVER DUSTY OL' TRAIL BROUGHT YOU HERE. THE SLASHERS ARE GONE, CURED--AND I'M RETIRED.
RETIREMENT? YOU FILE WITH THE GOVERNMENT FOR THAT? CASH IN A NICE 401K?
HACK, THERE IS NO RETIREMENT. AND I GET THE FEELING YOU'RE TOO SHARP TO THINK YOU CAN JUST FLIP A SWITCH AND WALK AWAY FROM THE HUNTIN' LIFE. IT'S IN YOUR BONES.
SEE, THIS THING YOU'RE DOING, DRIVING AROUND THE COUNTRY, PICKING UP BOUNTIES THAT AREN'T EVEN WORTH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS--IT SHOWS YOU'RE NOT OUT OF THE LIFE. YOU'RE JUST SCARED.
I GAVE MY POUND OF FLESH. IF ANYONE WANTS TO CONTEST THAT, I HOPE THEY'RE HOLDING A GOOD WEAPON AT THE TIME.
I'M OUT BECAUSE I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO. IT'S DONE.
KID, THERE'S EVIL OUT THERE THAT WILL NOT GO AWAY JUST BECAUSE YOU DO. I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE, FEELING LIKE YOU'RE THE ONLY THING HOLDING BACK THE STORM. THAT BURDEN. BUT BELIEVE ME, THE STORM DOESN'T VANISH WHEN YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES.
TAKE THIS TRACKER. I'LL BE AT THE LOCATION IT TELLS YOU TOMORROW NIGHT AND, BEING HONEST, I COULD USE YOUR HELP. WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S GOING DOWN, IT'S BIG AND IT HAS YOUR FINGERPRINTS ALL OVER IT. IN THE MEANTIME...
GPS Tracker
...TRY TO REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE.

DIGNITY GARDENS CEMETERY.
TWO MILES OUTSIDE LAREDO.
"DAMN SICKOS."
I KEEP TELLING 'EM TO ELECTRIFY THE FENCE. DON'T PUT UP NO WARNINGS, JUST ZAP!
THAT'LL LEARN 'EM.
CCC CCCCZZ ZZZ
HUH?
ANYONE THERE?
ANYBODY?

SWEET JESUS...
YOU STAY BACK, ALL RIGHT?
JUST-- JUS--
NO... NO...
ARRRGHH!!
NOO OOOO OO!
AND, LO, UNTO THE SPIRIT KING, MORINTO...
...THY SOUL SHALL BE CONSUMED.

SON OF A BITCH.
AH, THERE YOU ARE.
IT'S NOTHING PERMANENT, CASSIE. IT'S NOTHING PERMANENT.

AH!
HEY THERE, CASSIE.
LOOK, YOU'RE NOT DEAD, SO YOU CAN'T BE A GHOST. WHAT IN THE HELL IS THIS?
I DON'T KNOW. ANXIETY? DOUBT? THESE THINGS TEND TO MANIFEST IN UNUSUAL WAYS.
MY BEST GUESS WOULD BE GUILT.
I HAVE NOTHING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT.
YOU FEEL NO GUILT FOR LEAVING ME?
FOR LEAVING OUR FAMILY?
WE WEREN'T A FAMILY, GEORGIA. WE WERE PLAYING HOUSE. AFTER THE BABY GOT TAKEN AWAY--
WE HAD OPTIONS.
YOU HAD OPTIONS. I HAVE... HISTORY.
WHY DO THIS, CASSIE? REDEMPTION, MAYBE?
NO, THAT WOULD REQUIRE YOU TO ACTUALLY CHANGE.
YOU'RE IN MY HEAD. WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME?
NO. YOU KNOW THE REASON WHY; YOU JUST WON'T ADMIT IT.
JUST REMEMBER ONE THING: THIS LIFE DOESN'T LOVE YOU THE WAY YOU LOVE IT.
GEORGIA, LOOK, I--
DAMNIT.

CHIHUAHUAN DESERT.
FIVE MILES SOUTH OF THE MEXICO/UNITED STATES BORDER.
IF YOUR PLAN WAS TO MURDER ME, LET ME APPLAUD YOU ON YOUR IMPECCABLE LOCATION SCOUTING.
YOU PROBABLY DON'T EVEN HAVE TO BURY ME.
WELL, FEISTY, I'M OLD. I GOTTA TAKE WHATEVER SHORTCUTS I CAN.
LOOK, THIS...*THING* WE'RE DOING HERE, LET'S DO IT WITHOUT THE NICKNAMES.
. . .
I'LL DO MY BEST.
SO WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT? OR ARE YOU JUST INITIATING ME INTO YOUR OLD MAN'S EXOTIC DESERT PLANT-WATCHING HOBBY?
HAR HAR. I GOT A MAN ON THE INSIDE OF THIS MONSTER CLAN. WAITING FOR HIS ALL-CLEAR SIGNAL.
I HOPE YOU BROUGHT YOUR SPELUNKING GEAR.
I BROUGHT A BAT WITH NAILS IN IT.
WELL, THAT'LL WORK TOO.
AND HERE WE GO.

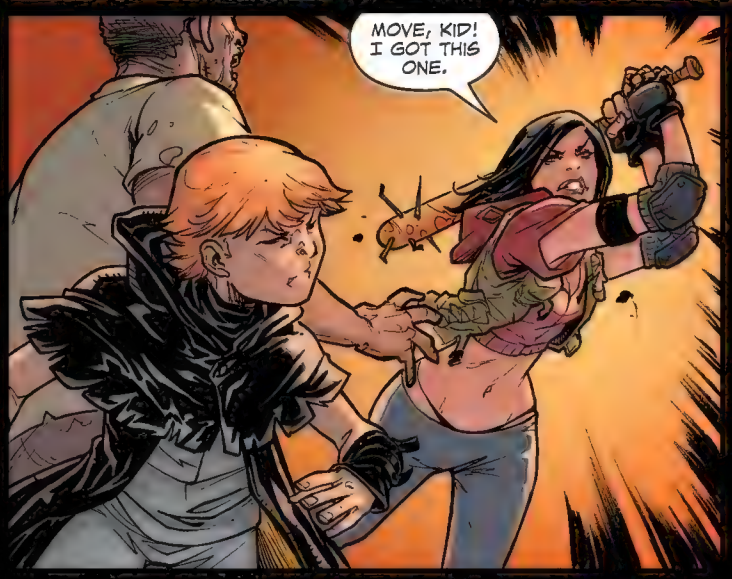
I'VE SPOTTED THESE MONSTERS CONSORTING WITH SOME FRIENDS OF YOURS— GOONS FROM THE BLACK LAMP SOCIETY. SEEMS LIKE A REALLY CHARMING GROUP, IF YOU LIKE THE STICK-UP-YOUR-ASS TYPE.
NEVER HEARD OF HIM. SOUNDS LIKE A STAR WARS CHARACTER.
NOW THESE MONSTERS OF MINE, THEY WORSHIP THE GOD ATTAN-SOOLU.
NOT MUCH TO HEAR ABOUT. HE'S DEAD. BEEN IN THAT CONDITION SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME.
"GOD SAW THAT THE LIGHT WAS GOOD, AND HE SEPARATED THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS."
LEGEND SAYS ATTAN-SOOLU IS THAT DARKNESS.
WE SHOULD PROBABLY BE LOWERIN' OUR VOICES.
THERE'S A MONSTER KING THAT INHABITS THESE CAVES, DEEP BENEATH THE SURFACE. GOES BY MORINTO. HE'S BEEN TRYING TO FIND SOMETHING TO TAP THE POWER OF ATTAN-SOOLU FOR YEARS. MY MAN ON THE INSIDE TELLS ME THE BLACK LAMP GAVE MORINTO WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR.
AND THAT IS...?
I DON'T KNOW. NOT YET. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, HACK: RECONNAISSANCE.
THIS IS THE ROAD TO MORINTO.

LEMME GO!
HERE'S HOW WE HANDLE THIS, YOU FLANK THE WESTWARD SIDE; AND I'LL-- HACK? HACK, YOU LISTENING?
WHAT WAS THAT? SOUNDED LIKE...
...A KID.
NNNGGHH! I DON'T WANNA!
LORD MORINTO INSISTS... IT IS TIME... TO CONSUME YOUR BEING.
JESUS! WHEN THE HELL WILL THESE MONSTERS GET ENOUGH OF HARMIN' KIDS?
LOOKS LIKE OUR RECON SHINDIG JUST TURNED INTO A PRISON BREAK.
LISTEN, MY JOB HAS ALWAYS BEEN PRETTY CUT AND DRY: WHEN THESE UGLY BASTARDS POP UP IN OUR WORLD, I PUT THEM DOWN. I AIN'T NEVER BEEN ON THEIR TURF BEFORE. IF WE START BARKING, I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GONNA BARK BACK.
SO, YOU SAYING YOU'RE NOT WITH ME ON THIS, OLD MAN?
HA! THIS IS THE MOST FUN I'VE HAD IN YEARS. I'M JUST SAYING NOT TO EXPECT ANYTHING TO GO AS YOU THINK IT SHOULD.
DELROY...
...IT NEVER DOES.

ERRRGH?
SPLRRRT
YOU'RE SQUISHY. I LIKE THAT.
I THINK WE'VE PROVEN THAT WE'RE SERIOUS WHEN WE TELL YOU TO HAND OVER THE KID.
SO MAYBE WE CAN JUST SKIP THE PART WHERE WE KILL YOU AND TAKE HIM ANYWAY.
MMRRRRGH!
:SIGH: DIDN'T THINK SO.
BOOM!

LORD... MORINTO... WILL GLADLY... INGEST YOUR ESSENCE AS WELL.
YADDA YADDA. WE'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE.
DELROY, IF YOU WOULD?

BOOM
MY PLEASURE.


MOVE, KID! I GOT THIS ONE.

NNRRRGH!

OOOOOKAY.
UH... HACK? I THINK WE GOT OURSELVES A PROBLEM.
FLESH AND SPIRIT... TO BE CONSUMED BY LORD MORINTO.

THAT'S UNSETTLING.
REMEMBER THAT BIT I MENTIONED ABOUT BEST-LAID PLANS?
BECAUSE THIS IS PRETTY MUCH WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT.

GRRRUUUUUT!
GO ON, CASSIE. GET THE KID OUT OF HERE!
AND BEFORE YOU OBJECT, I AIN'T BEIN' NOBLE! YOUR JOB AFTER SAVIN' THE KID IS TO GET BACK HERE AND SAVE MY ASS! NOW GO!
COME ON, KID! WE'RE GETTING YOU--
OW! WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING?

UNNGGHHH!
GRRUUUUUT!
CLANG
OH, YOU THINK SO?
GO ON AND SWALLOW ME, THEN. I WILL TEAR YOUR ASS IN HALF FROM THE INSIDE.
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS'LL KILL YOU, BUT...
...IT SURE AS HELL WON'T FEEL GOOD.

KABLAM
GRRAAAWWWW!
NOT BAD FOR AN IMPROVISED ASSAULT.
OH REALLY? I ALMOST ENDED UP BEING TOMORROW'S BYPRODUCT OF THAT HIDEOUS THING.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO TEAR IT IN HALF?
NOT UNLESS YOU CONSIDER INDIGESTION GETTING TORN IN HALF.
COME ON, LET'S SHAKE A LEG BEFORE THESE THINGS REGROUP. WHERE'S THE KID?

"LITTLE SHIT BIT ME AND RAN OFF TOWARD THE WAY OUT.

"I IMAGINE FINDING HIM WILL BE A WHOLE LOT OF FUN."

WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO RETRIEVE THE BOY YET. I FEAR LORD MORINTO WILL BE DISPLEASED.
CONTINUE YOUR SEARCH FOR THE CHILD, AND LOCATE DELROY AND HACK. IT'S TIME THESE NUISANCES WERE BROUGHT TO THEIR KNEES.
AS FOR LORD MORINTO, HE WILL NOT ENJOY HEARING THIS NEWS.
STILL, YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT THE BOY SERVED HIS PURPOSE. OUR DESTINY, KA'BAAL...
...HAS ONLY BEGUN TO TAKE SHAPE.
"THE RETURN OF OUR GOD IS UNDERWAY."

EVIL HAS A WAY OF PERPETUATING.
EVEN IN DEFEAT, ATTAN-SOOLU'S TWISTED PRINCIPLES ENDURED.
THE HUMANS EVOLVED WITH GREED, BRUTALITY, AND THE LUST FOR POWER CODED IN THEIR VERY ESSENCE.
THE MONSTERS, FAMISHED AND WEAK, STRUGGLED TO PERSIST IN THEIR NEW ENVIRONMENT.
THEIR GOD MURDERED, THEIR LEADERSHIP BROKEN, THE ONES WHO SURVIVED DID SO IN DISPARATE, NOMADIC TRIBES.
GENERATIONS PASSED AND THE PRESENCE OF THE MONSTERS ON THE SURFACE WORLD WAS DIMINISHED TO MYTH.
TO SOMETHING THAT NEVER **REALLY** HAPPENED.

THOSE HUMANS WHO KNEW BETTER BECAME CAPTIVES OF ATTAN-SOOLU, WHETHER THEY REALIZED IT OR NOT.
THEY TRIED TO HARNESS THE POWER OF THE FALLEN GOD THROUGH WORSHIP.
THROUGH INNOVATION.
THROUGH SACRIFICE.
BUT THERE IS NO CONTROLLING EVIL.
EVIL DOESN'T ISOLATE ITSELF TO ITS PRACTITIONERS. ITS EFFECTS ARE CEASELESS, ITS RIPPLES WIDER THAN ANY LAKE CAN CONTAIN.

IT CORRUPTS THE HEART.
POISONS THE MIND.
COMPROMISES THE SOUL.
OVER TIME, THE STORY OF THE MONSTERS BECAME JUST THAT: STORIES, SILLY TALES TOLD IN THE DARK.
BUT BY THEN, HUMANS HAD PERFECTED HORRORS OF THEIR OWN.
AS THEY DID, THE MONSTERS TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO RETAKING THE WORLD THEY ONCE KNEW.
AND ONE OF THEM, THE ONE KNOWN AS MORINTO, HAD A PLAN.

"WHEN I WAS TWELVE--AND I REMEMBER THE AGE SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE IT WAS MY BIRTHDAY--MY OLD MAN TOOK ME OUT ON A HUNTING TRIP.
"WE GOT SEPARATED FOR JUST A MINUTE AND, WHEN I CAME BACK, HE WAS GONE. THE BASTARD LEFT ME A CANTEEN, A RIFLE, AND A NOTE TELLING ME TO TRACK MY BUTT BACK TO THE CABIN.
"I WAS DEEP IN WOODS I'D NEVER BEEN IN BEFORE, SCARED WITLESS.
"I LEARNED. IT WASN'T EASY, BUT I LEARNED.
"I RAN OUT OF WATER THE SECOND DAY; BY THE FOURTH, I WAS HALLUCINATING.
"THOUGH, KNOWING WHAT I KNOW NOW, MAYBE I WASN'T."

I FINALLY FOUND A TRAIL AND FOLLOWED IT, FRANTICALLY, TO THE CABIN.
ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL, MY FATHER TOLD ME HE WOULD'VE BEEN MUCH HAPPIER IF I HAD MADE IT BACK IN THREE DAYS.
THAT'S HOW I LEARNED HOW TO TRACK.
A SIMPLE "MY DAD TAUGHT ME" WOULD'VE SUFFICED; BUT, YEAH, I GUESS THAT STORY WORKS AS WELL.
THE TRAIL'S COLD. IT'S COLD IN EVERY DIRECTION.
TELL ME, SURVIVORMAN, HOW DO WE FIND THE KID NOW?
WE DON'T...
SCALPERS GOT 'IM NOW.

"THERE IS AN UNUSUAL TRAIT ABOUT THE HUMANS: THEY ARE DEFINED BY THEIR SENSE OF SELF.
"YET IT'S A DISTINCTION-- ABOVE THE OTHER ANIMALS-- THAT THEY DON'T EVEN WANT.
"THE HUMANS CRAVE HERDS. THE FEW DECIDING FOR THE MANY.
"THE INDIVIDUAL... THE INDIVIDUAL IS WEAK.
"EVERY BEING I'VE CLAIMED, EVERY LAST ONE, HAD ONE THING IN COMMON:
"IN THEIR FINAL MOMENT, IN THAT SECOND BEFORE THEY'RE ABOUT TO BE OVERTAKEN...
"...THEY SURRENDER. THEY MAY STRUGGLE BUT, IN THE FINAL MOMENT, THEY SURRENDER THE BURDEN OF INDIVIDUALITY."

BOCA DE POTRERILLOS ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE.
150 MILES SOUTH OF THE MEXICO/ UNITED STATES BORDER.
THE GOD-BEAST, ONCE UNLEASHED, WILL BE A RAGING FIRE IN THEIR WORLD THAT NEVER ENDS.
THE HUMANS... THEY ARE BURDENED BY THEIR OWN SELF-AWARENESS.
THEIR VERY EXISTENCE HAUNTS THEM LIKE A NIGHTMARE THEY CAN'T AWAKEN FROM.
THEY'VE TRIED TO FREE THEMSELVES. WITH THEIR GUNS AND THEIR BOMBS AND THEIR WARS, THEY'VE TRIED.
WE'RE GOING TO HELP THEM.

I DON'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING, LORD MORINTO, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE...
...THAT THE GOD-BEAST WISHES TO REMAIN UNDISTURBED. AT LEAST THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT FACT.
AFTER ATTAN-SOOLU WAS VANQUISHED, THE GOD-BEAST TOOK HIS SORROW TO ISOLATION.
PERHAPS IT'S BEST TO LEAVE IT THAT WAY?
HAD THE OTHERS WHO ATTEMPTED TO CONQUER THE BEAST MY POWER, LUIS? MY *WILL*?
THEY DID NOT, MY LORD.
THEN DON'T TRY TO FRIGHTEN ME WITH THE SAME STORIES USED TO KEEP CHILDREN FROM WANDERING TOO DEEP INTO THE CAVES.
I *KNOW* THE GOD-BEAST IS REAL, AND I KNOW THAT MANY HAVE TRIED TO PERSUADE IT INTO WAR OR EVEN TRIED TO KILL IT FOR NOTORIETY.
PHYSICALLY, IT KNOWS NO EQUAL. BUT I HAVE DIFFERENT DESIGNS...

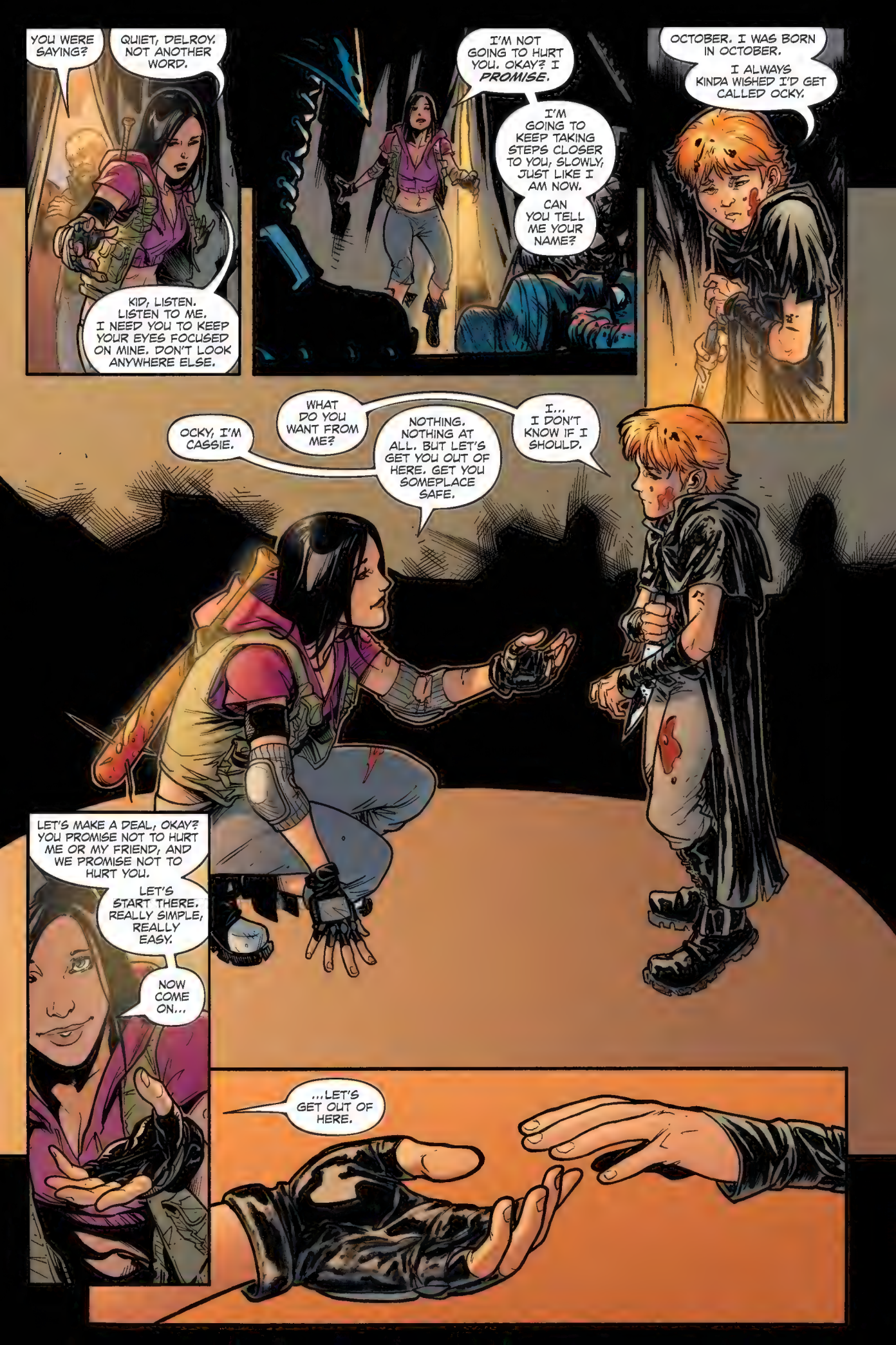
"I KNOW THE POWER OF THIS BEAST.
"RATHER THAN CONFRONT THE GOD-BEAST'S MURDEROUS RAGE, THE HUMANS CHOSE TO CHALLENGE ATTAN-SOOLU, A GOD.
"THE BEAST WAS MADE TO DESTROY. IT KNOWS NOTHING ELSE.
"THE ONLY WAY TO APPEASE IT IS TO DELIVER WHAT IT WANTS."
AND WHAT IS THAT?
ATTAN-SOOLU, ITS LONG-LOST MASTER.
ALIVE AND IN THE FLESH.

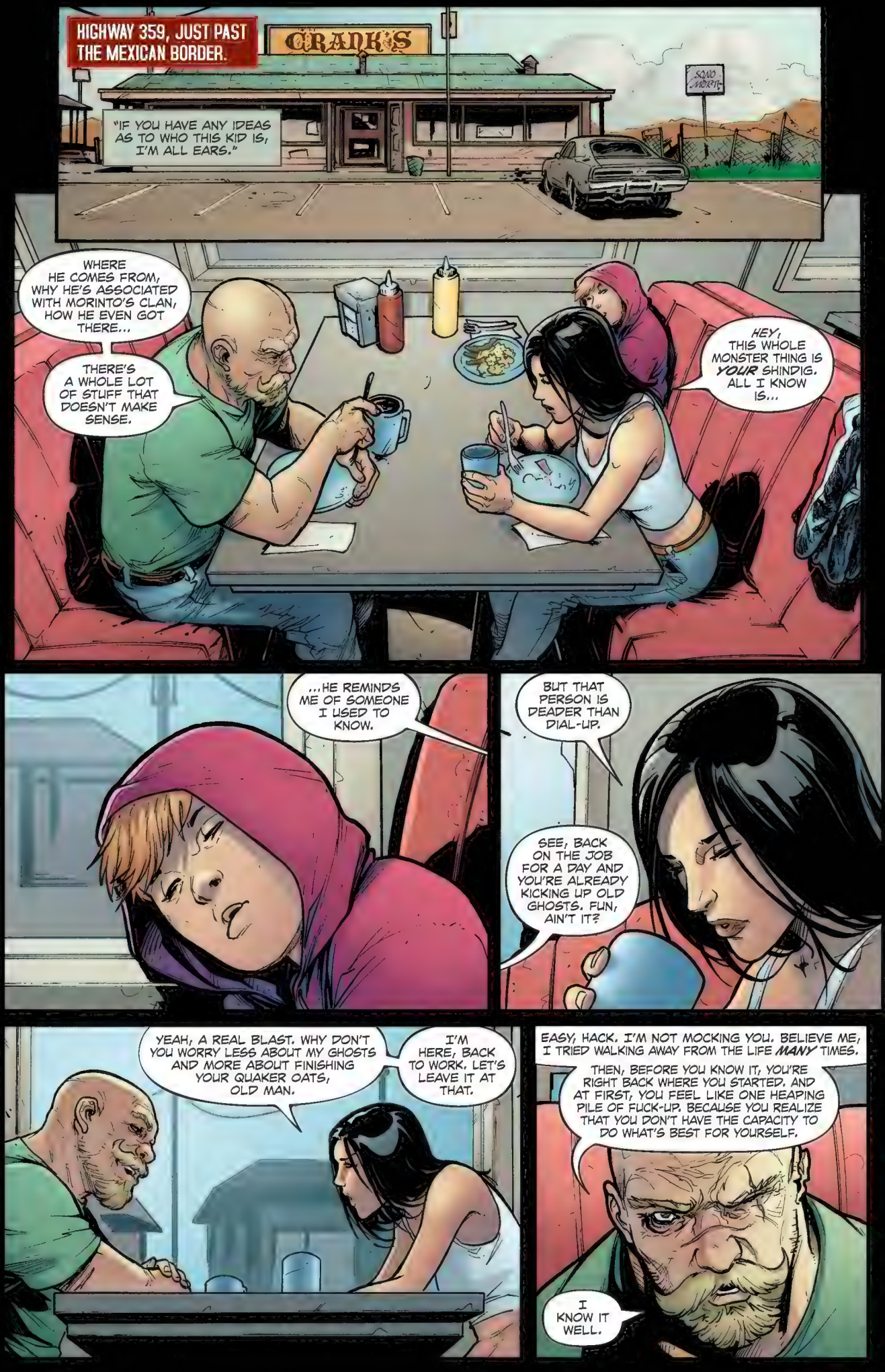
HACK, IT'S ONE THING FOR THESE ANIMALS TO CATCH YOU IN THE WILD. THEY'LL JUST KILL YOU, STRIP YOU OF YOUR ORGANS, AND SELL YOU OFF.
BUT YOU INVADE THEIR HOME...
...THAT'S WHEN THEY GET NASTY. AND WEIRD.
SO WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, WE JUST LEAVE THE KID?
HELL, NO. I'M SAYING DON'T HESITATE. JUST TAKE THESE LUNATICS OUT.
THERE'S A NARROW PASS RUNNING ALONG THE EAST WALL. THAT MIGHT GET US IN QUIET ENOUGH TO--
YEAH, I DON'T THINK QUIET IS IN THE CARDS...
NOW, STOP HESITATING, OLD MAN!

NEW PLAN! RUSH 'EM, GRAB THE KID...
...AND DON'T DIE!
I'M GIVING YOU ONE CHANCE: GIVE ME THE KID. NOW.
FINE, THEN. MAYBE YOU'LL TALK AFTER I BEAT THE METH OUT OF YOU.
WHERE!
IS!
THE KID!

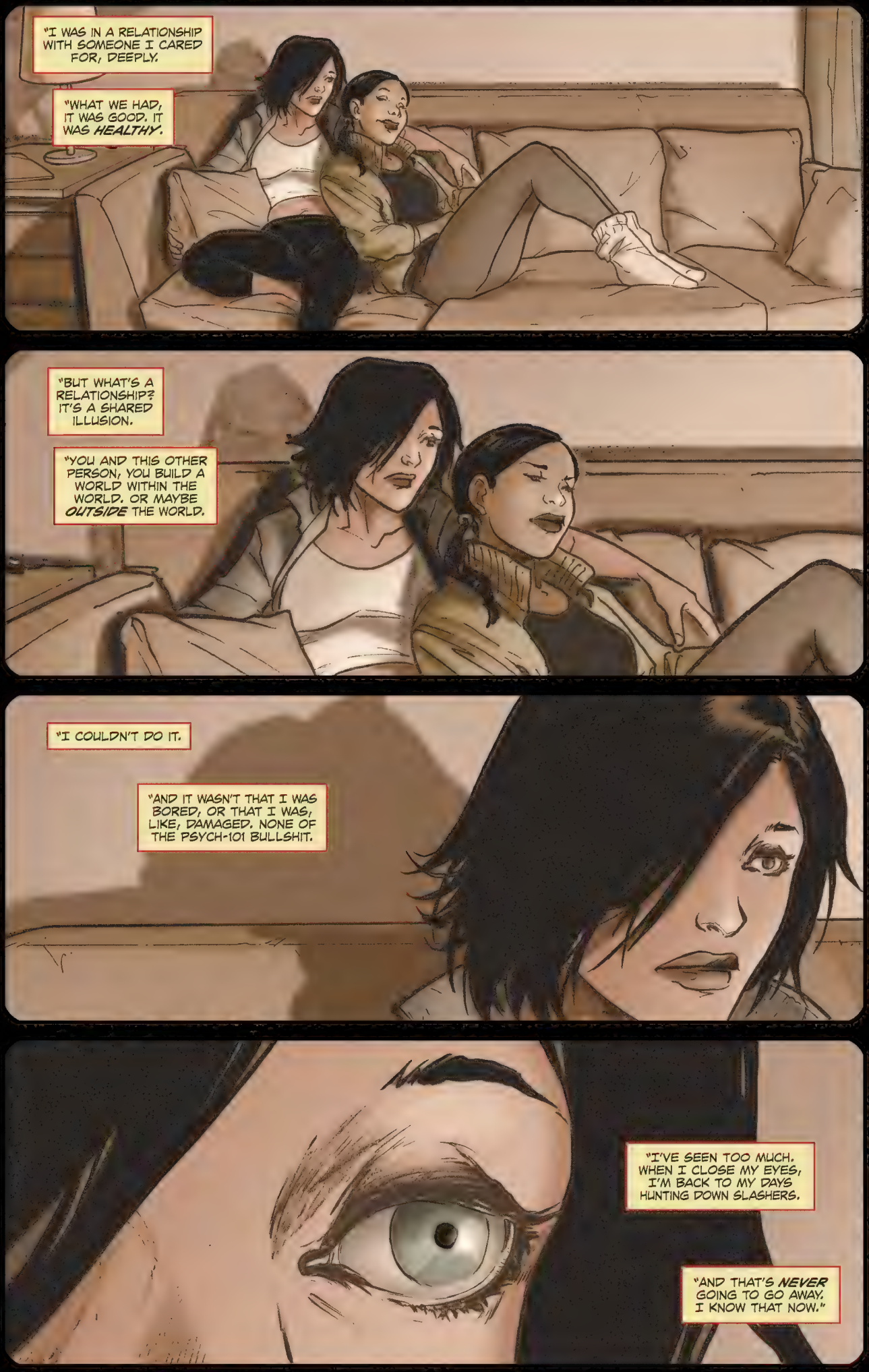
=OOOF!=
STILL NOT CONVINCED, ASSHOLE?!
THE BOY'S OURS, AND YOU CAN'T HAVE 'IM.
KIDNEYS, SPLEEN, AND ALL-- HE'S GOING TO HELP A LIFE THAT'S ACTUALLY WANTED. IT'S THE GOOD WORK.
YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER SICK FREAK. THERE'S NO POINT IN ME EVEN TRYING TO TALK TO YOU LIKE A HUMAN BE--
HACK!
LEAVE THE PSYCHO.
YOU NEED TO COME SEE THIS.

LISTEN, HACK, I'M NOT MUCH OF A KID PERSON. AND THIS KID... HE'S GONNA NEED SOME TALKING TO.
LIKE I'M JUST A REGULAR MISTER ROGERS.
BESIDES, HE'S JUST A KID.
I TOLD THEM TO LEAVE ME ALONE. I TOLD THEM I'D KILL THEM ALL.
WHY DIDN'T THEY LISTEN?
WHY DIDN'T THEY LISTEN?


YOU WERE SAYING?
QUIET, DELROY. NOT ANOTHER WORD.
KID, LISTEN. LISTEN TO ME. I NEED YOU TO KEEP YOUR EYES FOCUSED ON MINE. DON'T LOOK ANYWHERE ELSE.
I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU. OKAY? I PROMISE.
I'M GOING TO KEEP TAKING STEPS CLOSER TO YOU, SLOWLY, JUST LIKE I AM NOW.
CAN YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME?
OCTOBER. I WAS BORN IN OCTOBER.
I ALWAYS KINDA WISHED I'D GET CALLED OCKY.
OCKY, I'M CASSIE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL. BUT LET'S GET YOU OUT OF HERE. GET YOU SOMEPLACE SAFE.
I... I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD.
LET'S MAKE A DEAL, OKAY? YOU PROMISE NOT TO HURT ME OR MY FRIEND, AND WE PROMISE NOT TO HURT YOU.
LET'S START THERE. REALLY SIMPLE, REALLY EASY.
NOW COME ON...
...LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.


HIGHWAY 359, JUST PAST THE MEXICAN BORDER.
CRANK'S
SONO MORTO
"IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS AS TO WHO THIS KID IS, I'M ALL EARS."
WHERE HE COMES FROM, WHY HE'S ASSOCIATED WITH MORINTO'S CLAN, HOW HE EVEN GOT THERE...
THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF STUFF THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
HEY, THIS WHOLE MONSTER THING IS YOUR SHINDIG. ALL I KNOW IS...
...HE REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE I USED TO KNOW.
BUT THAT PERSON IS DEADER THAN DIAL-UP.
SEE, BACK ON THE JOB FOR A DAY AND YOU'RE ALREADY KICKING UP OLD GHOSTS. FUN, AIN'T IT?
YEAH, A REAL BLAST. WHY DON'T YOU WORRY LESS ABOUT MY GHOSTS AND MORE ABOUT FINISHING YOUR QUAKER OATS, OLD MAN.
I'M HERE, BACK TO WORK. LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT.
EASY, HACK. I'M NOT MOCKING YOU. BELIEVE ME, I TRIED WALKING AWAY FROM THE LIFE MANY TIMES.
THEN, BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE YOU STARTED. AND AT FIRST, YOU FEEL LIKE ONE HEAPING PILE OF FUCK-UP. BECAUSE YOU REALIZE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE THE CAPACITY TO DO WHAT'S BEST FOR YOURSELF.
I KNOW IT WELL.

WE'RE CLEVER CREATURES, AREN'T WE? PEOPLE, THAT IS.
ONE OF THOSE PSYCHOS, THE SCALPER. HE ACTUALLY BOUGHT HIS OWN BULLSHIT. I'VE SEEN IT I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES--PEOPLE JUSTIFYING THEIR CRUELTY WITH SOME KIND OF MESSED-UP RIGHTEOUSNESS.
EVERYTHING WE BELIEVE IN--POLITICS, RELIGION, LOVE--IT'S JUST STUFF WE CONVINCE OURSELVES IS TRUE. I GUESS THE BEST YOU CAN HOPE FOR IS THE THING YOU BELIEVE HARMS AS FEW LIVES AS POSSIBLE.
SOME PEOPLE WILL TELL YOU WE'RE THE SUM OF EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS TO US. TABULA RASA AND ALL THAT CRAP. I GUESS SOME OF THAT'S TRUE. BUT IT'S MORE HOW OUR GRAY MATTER PROCESSES ALL OF LIFE'S LUNACY AND THE MEANING WE TAKE FROM IT.
LET ME ASK--AND I MEAN THIS SERIOUSLY--IF YOU WERE OUT, GONE BABY GONE, WHY WERE YOU WASTING YOUR TIME CHASING DOWN LOWLIFES FOR SHIT BOUNTIES? WHY NOT GO, BE A GHOST?
...
THE EASY ANSWER IS THAT I'M LITERALLY UNQUALIFIED FOR ANYTHING ELSE. NO EDUCATION, NO JOB HISTORY.
HELL, I DON'T EVEN HAVE A CREDIT SCORE.
BUT THE TRUTH?
"SOME THINGS HAPPENED. THINGS THAT BROKE MY HEART.
"AND WITH THAT, I THOUGHT I COULD MAKE A CLEAN BREAK. THAT CHAPTER OF MY LIFE, ALL THE SHIT I ENDURED...
"...IT WAS OVER.


"I WAS IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE I CARED FOR, DEEPLY.
"WHAT WE HAD, IT WAS GOOD. IT WAS *HEALTHY*.
"BUT WHAT'S A RELATIONSHIP? IT'S A SHARED ILLUSION.
"YOU AND THIS OTHER PERSON, YOU BUILD A WORLD WITHIN THE WORLD. OR MAYBE *OUTSIDE* THE WORLD.
"I COULDN'T DO IT.
"AND IT WASN'T THAT I WAS BORED, OR THAT I WAS, LIKE, DAMAGED. NONE OF THE PSYCH-101 BULLSHIT.
"I'VE SEEN TOO MUCH. WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, I'M BACK TO MY DAYS HUNTING DOWN SLASHERS.
"AND THAT'S *NEVER* GOING TO GO AWAY. I KNOW THAT NOW."

HA! THAT IS THE BLEAKEST STORY I'VE EVER HEARD.
YOU ASKED, ASSHOLE.
DON'T TELL THE KID THAT. DON'T TELL ANY KIDS THAT.
LET'S JUST GET MOVING. FIND A PLACE TO LAY LOW WHILE--
SERIOUSLY, THERE'S PEACE IN IT.
LOOK, HACK, SORRY IF I'M ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES. I HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND ANYONE IN... A WHILE.
BUT THAT REALIZATION, WHAT YOU DESCRIBED, IT'S A DECISION WAITING TO BE MADE. EVENTUALLY, IT'LL FEEL RIGHT.
NOW...
...WHAT ABOUT THIS INVESTIGATOR FRIEND OF YOURS?
YEAH, I NEED TO BUILD MYSELF UP TO THAT PHONE CALL. LET'S EASE INTO THE DAY A LITTLE BIT FIRST.
THE PERSON THE KID REMINDS YOU OF, THE DEAD ONE. DEAD BY NATURAL CAUSES?
UH, NO...
...HE'S DEAD BECAUSE I KILLED HIM.

THEM'S NOTHING BUT CRUDE DRAWINGS, LORD MORINTO. PROB'LY MADE BY A DWELLER THAT WENT CRAZY LIVING THIS FAR BELOW THE SURFACE.
THEY ARE NOT CRUDE DRAWINGS.
THIS IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE DARK ORDER. IT LOOKS LIKE SOME LIVED DOWN HERE TO PAY WORSHIP TO THE GOD-BEAST.
THE WRITING ENDS ABRUPTLY, SO WE CAN ASSUME WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM.
THE DARK ORDER. HERETICS.
IF THE DRAWINGS END, THEN WE MUST BE--
SAY ONE MORE WORD ABOUT THE DARK ORDER, BASE CREATURE, AND I'LL HAVE YOUR TONGUE.
RRRUMMMBBBLE
CLOSE.

LEAD US, NOW, TO OUR PREY.
MADRE MÍA...
MMRRAAAAAWW...

BUY MY SOLDIERS TIME, GRUNT.
NOOOOO!

BEAST, IT IS I!
I AM ATTAN-SOOLU, RETURNED IN THE FLESH. MY WILL IS YOUR COMMAND.
GOOD, GOOD.
NOW OBEY MY *EVERY* COMMAND.
THE TIME HAS COME TO FINISH WHAT WE STARTED. TO SET *FIRE* TO THE HUMAN WORLD.

WAR IS THE NATURAL STATE OF THE MONSTER. EVEN AFTER THE CONFLICT WITH THE HUMANS ENDED, THE MANY TRIBES FOUND REASON TO FIGHT ONE ANOTHER.
BUT NOT ALL MONSTERS ARE BORN FOR THE BLADE, THIRSTING FOR THE THRILL OF BATTLE.
SOME ARE BORN...
...SICKLY.
MORINTO'S LIFE WAS ONE OF EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION.
UNDERSIZED AND FEEBLE, HE WAS NEVER ABLE TO ENGAGE IN THE TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES OF CHILDREN HIS AGE.
MOST MONSTERS OF SIMILAR PHYSIQUE WERE CAST OUT AT ADOLESCENCE OR MURDERED AT BIRTH.
BUT MOST MONSTERS DIDN'T HAVE MORINTO'S MOTHER.

NO WOMAN DEFIED THE PATRIARCHAL RULE OF THE MONSTERS LIKE ZDENA.
IT WAS CUSTOM FOR ANY WOMAN WITH CHILD TO TAKE A HUSBAND.
IT WAS CONTENTIOUS ENOUGH THAT THE IDENTITY OF MORINTO'S FATHER WAS UNKNOWN.
BUT ZDENA'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT A FATHER FOR MORINTO--THOUGH HARDLY ANY WERE WILLING, GIVEN HIS WEAKNESS--WAS UNPRECEDENTED.
MANY QUESTIONS BEGAN TO DRAW ATTENTION TO HER BEHAVIOR.
AND THOSE QUESTIONS FUELED SPECULATION.
SOME BELIEVED THAT ZDENA BEDDED A MAN FROM OUTSIDE HER TRIBE.
A MAN FROM THE DARK ORDER.
PRACTICE OF THE OCCULT HAD BEEN OUTLAWED ACROSS ALL MONSTER TRIBES.
NOT SINCE THE TRIBES, FACING EXTINCTION, UNIFIED TO DEFEAT THE UNDEAD ARMY OF NZULAH HAD ANYONE DARED PRACTICE BLACK MAGIC.
THE PUNISHMENT FOR THIS TREASON WAS DEATH.

MANY WERE EAGER TO DELIVER ZDENA'S PUNISHMENT.
AND MANY DID.
THEIR SUSPICION WAS TRUE: SHE WAS A MEMBER OF A CLANDESTINE RISING OF THE DARK ORDER.
BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW OF ZDENA'S PLAN, OF THE POWER SHE WAS CULTIVATING WITHIN HERSELF.
SHE MADE A MOST DIFFICULT DEMAND OF HER ONE, BELOVED SON.
HER DYING WISH: FOR THE POWER THAT WAS WITHIN HER, THE DARK POWER, TO BE CONSUMED.
THE POWER WOULD MAKE MORINTO STRONG. IT WOULD MAKE HIM A LEADER.
MRRRRAWWW!
IT WOULD MAKE HIM A GOD.

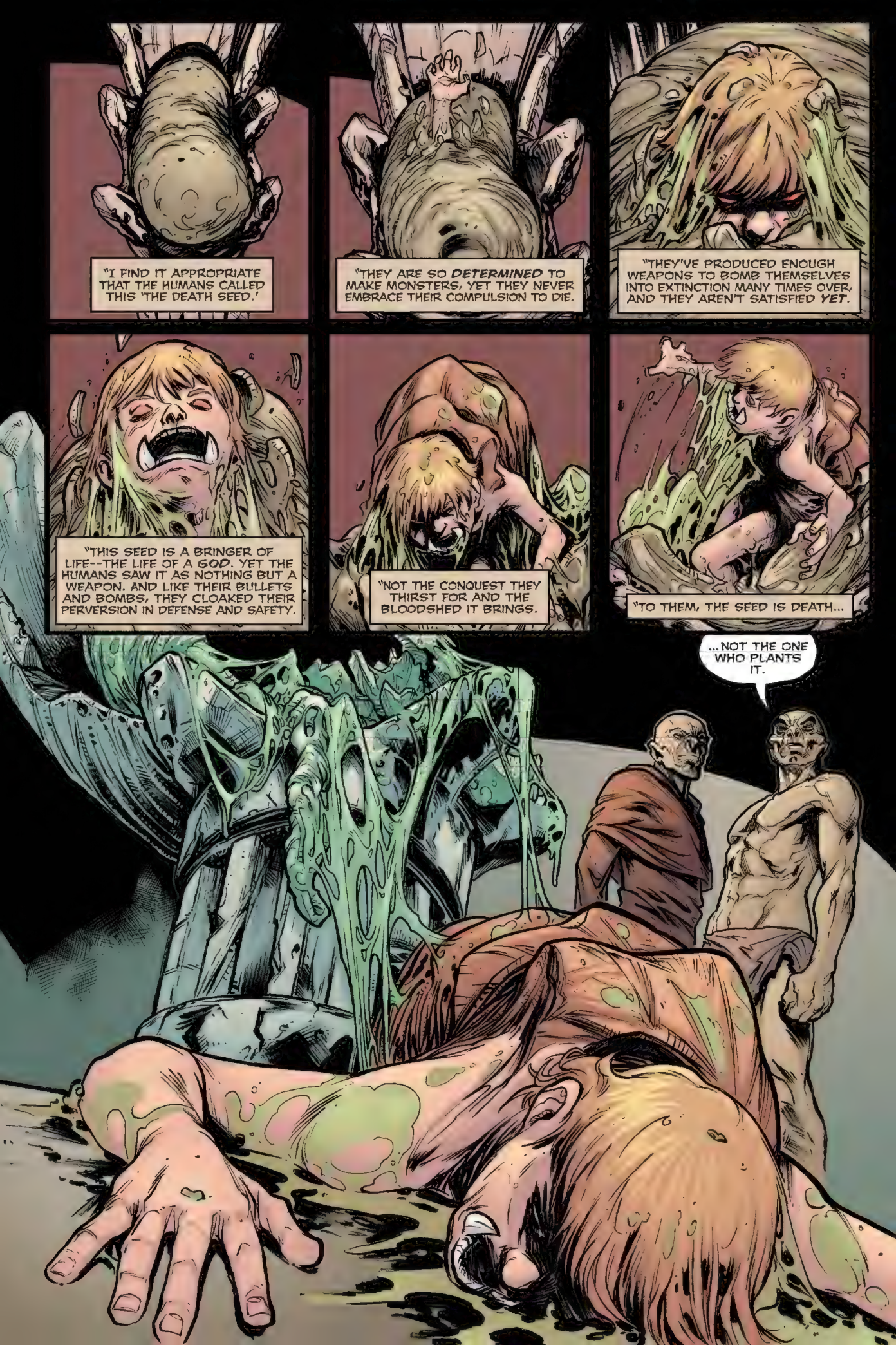
CEDAR ISLAND, NORTH CAROLINA.
NO OFFENSE, CASSIE, BUT THIS DOESN'T LOOK TOO PROMISING.
ARE YOU SURE YOUR SOURCE IS RIGHT ABOUT THIS?
POSITIVE. AS MUCH AS IT PAINS ME TO SAY, SHE'S ALWAYS RIGHT.
KIND OF ANNOYING THAT WAY.
CASSIE!
CASS!!
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.

COME HERE!
DAMN, IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU!
I'M CATHERINE CURIO, P.I. EXTRAORDINAIRE. YOU CAN CALL ME CAT.
AND YOU, MISTER BIG GUY, YOU MUST BE HER SIDEKICK. YOU FIT THE BILL.
NAME'S DELROY.
WELL, DELROY, THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE.
ANYWAY, CASSIE, SINCE POOCH AND I ARE LEGIT NOW, SHALL WE TALK PAYMENT? TRAVEL, EQUIPMENT, FOOD, STIPENDS. POOCH IS A GROWING, UM, THING.
POOCH?
Hello, Mister Delroy. I am Pooch.
Feel free to pet whenever you'd like to.
YEEEEAAAHHH.
YEAH, YEAH, CAT. LISTEN, CAN WE JUST STICK TO THE MATTER AT HAND?
HAVE YOU FOUND ANYTHING?
HAVE I FOUND ANYTHING? YOU FORGET WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO!
CAT AND DOG, INC! FINDING STUFF IS WHAT WE DO.

...SO I JUST KICKED A WALL PANEL AND THAT DOOR OPENED UP.
AND, WHAM, THERE IT WAS: SECRET STAIRCASE. SORT OF CLICHÉ, BUT USEFUL NONETHELESS.
THIS WAS A SECRET RIGHT? AVA WASN'T MONITORED DOWN HERE?
I'M PRETTY SURE IF SHE WAS DOING SOMETHING, SOMEONE WAS ALLOWING HER TO DO SAID SOMETHING.
THIS WHOLE FACILITY BELONGED TO ANDREW RODIN, A NUT-BALL BIOGENETICIST. HE BRED SOME VERY BAD THINGS HERE AND KEPT A TIGHT CONTROL OVER THE WHOLE PLACE WHILE DOING SO.
HOW YOU HOLDING UP, POOCH?
Pooch is very good. Mistress Cat. Ocky is a great petter.
NOW, THAT'S NOT TO SAY THAT AVA WASN'T DOING A FEW THINGS ON THE SIDE--LIKE MAKING PERSONABLE SEX SLAVES AND TRYING TO FREE THE INFAMOUS SAMHAIN.
UNTIL CASSIE AND VLAD SHOW UP. BOOM GOES THE FACILITY AND ALL THE MYSTERIES IT HELD.

OR SO THEY THOUGHT.
SO, YEAH, THIS IS WHAT I WANTED TO SHOW YOU.
I FOUND THEM IN A COOLING CONTAINER UNDER SOME RUBBLE.
ANY IDEA WHAT'S IN THERE?
POOR POOCH CAN VERIFY THAT THEY ARE NOT, IN FACT, JELL-O SHOTS.
OTHER THAN THAT, I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH LAB TIME TO FIGURE THEM OUT.
BUT GIVEN THE EXISTENCE OF YOU-KNOW-WHO...
...I'D BET THEY'RE SAMHAIN'S DNA.
I DON'T GET IT. WHY WOULD SHE KEEP HIS DNA JUST LYING AROUND? WHAT WAS SHE TRYING TO DO?
EXACTLY.
AND IF MORINTO HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE BOY HERE, HOW'D HE END UP WITH IT?

RODIN'S DEAD. AS ARE THE ARTEMIS. HELL, AS IS ANYONE WHO LIVED HERE. SO SOMEONE HAD TO BE IN THE KNOW ABOUT AVA'S WORK.
ANOTHER BLACK LAMP MEMBER, MAYBE?
EXACTLY WHERE I WAS HEADING. I HAD SOME HELP FROM THE KING OF SPIES WITH THIS ONE, BUT I'VE GOT A FEW LEADS.
A FEW?
COULDN'T WE HAVE STARTED WITH THIS?
WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT, BIG GUY?
ALL RIGHT, GANG, LET'S TACKLE THE TERRIFYING MONSTER KNOWN AS PAPERWORK!
SORRY.


"I FIND IT APPROPRIATE THAT THE HUMANS CALLED THIS 'THE DEATH SEED.'
"THEY ARE SO *DETERMINED* TO MAKE MONSTERS, YET THEY NEVER EMBRACE THEIR COMPULSION TO DIE.
"THEY'VE PRODUCED ENOUGH WEAPONS TO BOMB THEMSELVES INTO EXTINCTION MANY TIMES OVER, AND THEY AREN'T SATISFIED *YET*.
"THIS SEED IS A BRINGER OF LIFE--THE LIFE OF A *GOD*. YET THE HUMANS SAW IT AS NOTHING BUT A WEAPON. AND LIKE THEIR BULLETS AND BOMBS, THEY CLOAKED THEIR PERVERSION IN DEFENSE AND SAFETY.
"NOT THE CONQUEST THEY THIRST FOR AND THE BLOODSHED IT BRINGS.
"TO THEM, THE SEED IS DEATH...
...NOT THE ONE WHO PLANTS IT.

THE WAR AGAINST THE HUMANS WILL BE LONG AND VICIOUS, HEZZEL.
BUT AS YOUR GOD, I WON'T RELENT UNTIL WE WIN, UNTIL WE GIVE THE HUMANS THE DEATH THEY WANT AND RECAPTURE THE SURFACE WORLD.
EACH GENERATION BRINGS US CLOSER.
WE MOVE AWAY FROM HUMANS AND TOWARD MONSTERS WITH EVERY HATCHING.
IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE ATTAN-SOOLU'S DNA CONSUMES THE HUMAN'S, GIVING IT THE STRENGTH TO LIVE ON ITS OWN.
WHAT DO WE DO UNTIL THEN?
WE UNIFY THE OTHER MONSTER TRIBES, FORCE THEM TO UNDERSTAND WHO THEIR NEW GOD IS.
WE BUILD OUR ARMY.

"SO, I GUESS I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO BRING THIS UP...
...THIS SAMHAIN GUY--HE'S MY DAD, SORT OF.
WHICH MEANS I MAY BE LIKE HIM.
AND YOU SAID HE WAS A KILLER.
WELL...YES AND NO. WHAT'S IN YOU, OCKY, IS THE SAME THING THAT'S IN EVERYONE ELSE, JUST MAGNIFIED.
GOOD AND EVIL. WE ALL HAVE THE CAPACITY TO DO THE RIGHT THING OR THE WRONG THING.
I HAVE THE SAME THING IN ME, OCKY. MY MOM...
...SHE WAS A SERIAL KILLER. A MURDERER.
A SLASHER.

HEY, WATCH THE FACE. I LIKE KEEPING IT PRETTY!
LOOK, THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH YOU CAN CONTROL ABOUT WHO YOU ARE.
YOU'RE BORN A CERTAIN WAY OR SOME SHIT HAPPENS TO YOU AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU'RE THE PERSON YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK IN THE MIRROR.
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, YOU CAN'T ESCAPE FROM YOU.
I WON'T LIE. THERE'S ONE THING ABOUT US THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM MOST PEOPLE. WE CAN KILL, EVEN FOR THE RIGHT REASONS, AND BE OKAY WITH IT. THAT'S... NOT NORMAL.
BUT I MADE A DECISION, OCKY, AND YOU CAN, TOO. I DECIDED TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF SHIT, TO NOT LET ALL MY LIFE'S GARBAGE BE AN EXCUSE FOR ADDING MORE MISERY TO THE WORLD.
I RECOGNIZE WHAT'S INSIDE OF ME, AND I USE IT TO DO GOOD.
NOT A DAY GOES BY WHERE I DON'T FEEL THAT I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.
BUT IF THAT'S TRUE, IF WE ALL HAVE SOME GOOD IN US, THEN WHY'D YOU KILL SAMHAIN? YOU DIDN'T JUST KILL THE BAD, YOU KILLED ALL OF HIM.
THAT'S A TOUGH QUESTION TO ANSWER. BUT WHAT IT BOILS DOWN TO IS THIS:
I TOLD YOU WE ALL MAKE CHOICES. WELL...

"...THAT ASSHOLE MADE THE WRONG CHOICE AND I MADE HIM PAY FOR IT."
PLEASE, DON'T TELL ME YOU INVITED ME ALL THE WAY HERE SO YOU CAN COMMIT SUICIDE BY GUEST.
I INVITED YOU HERE FOR THE EXACT REASONS I LAID OUT, AS SIMPLE AS CAN BE.
KNEEL BEFORE ME. ACKNOWLEDGE ME AS YOUR RULER AND KING. DEDICATE YOUR BLADE TO MY SERVICE.
I'LL ONLY MAKE YOU THIS OFFER ONCE.
IF A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TRIBES WASN'T CERTAIN, I'D HAVE YOUR HEAD ON A POST. THE JOB OF ME AND MY MEN IS TO FIGHT BACK THE FERALS THAT DWELL BEYOND THE RIM.
YOUR TALK OF RULERS, KINGS, GODS--THIS MEANS NOTHING TO ME.
BUT IT WILL. NOW...
...KNEEL.
IF I STAY A MOMENT LONGER, I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY ACTIONS.
CONFRONT ME AGAIN, MORINTO, AND I WILL DRIVE MY SWORD--

SCCCRRRAAAAAAW!
...
GOD BEAST.

I TOLD YOU TO KNEEL.
HUURKKK!
OUR TIME EXISTING IN THE SHADOWS IS OVER.
LOOK AT ME AND GAZE UPON YOUR GOD. KNOW THAT I WILL LEAD US IN A RAMPAGE AGAINST THE HUMANS, RELENTLESS UNTIL WE DRIVE THEM INTO THE SHAME OF HIDING WE KNOW ALL TOO WELL.
WE RECLAIM OUR GLORY...
...AND WE WILL DESTROY WHOEVER STANDS IN OUR WAY!
RRRAAAAAAWR

MADRE MIA.
Morinto in control of God Beast, army.
"LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING. I WANT YOU TO HEAR ME NOW, HEAR WHAT I SAY ABOUT THE LORD...

"...I LOOK OUT ONTO THE AUDIENCE TONIGHT, AT ALL YOU GOOD FOLK, ALL YOU FAITHFUL BELIEVERS, AND I SEE A WHOLE LOT OF GOOD. I DO. I TRULY, TRULY DO...
...BUT I ALSO SEE A LOT OF MASKS. I SEE A LOT OF PEOPLE HIDING THEIR TRUE SELVES.
WHY I ASK? THE LORD ALREADY KNOW WHO YOU ARE. HE KNOWS IT BETTER THAN YOU.
HE KNOWS WHAT, IN YOUR HEART OF HEARTS...
THIS IS MAKING ME FEEL BARFY.
LOOK AT THESE PEOPLE, LAPPING IT ALL UP. HOW DO YOU GET THIS MANY PEOPLE TO BELIEVE THIS RIDICULOUS GARBAGE?
IT'S COMMUNITY, HACK. AIN'T NO DIFFERENT THAN SPORTS OR POLITICS.
PEOPLE LIKE TO FEEL PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THEMSELVES.
IT ALLEVIATES THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN LIVES.
YOU GUYS JUST CAN'T STOP MAKING THIS FUN, CAN YOU?
PART OF THE GIG, KID. WE ONLY HAVE ONE MORE LEAD TO GO AFTER THIS ONE, AND IF NOTHING POPS UP, BEING BORED WILL BE THE LEAST OF OUR PROBL--
WHOA, WHOA. HOLD ON.
THERE IS EVIL OUT THERE, REAL EVIL. SINNERS, EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK.
THESE SINNERS MUST BE DEALT WITH IN A MANNER MOST HARSH, AND YOU ALL CAN HELP.
UNVEIL YOUR TRUE SELVES AND LET THE LIGHT OF THE BLACK LAMP GUIDE YOUR WAY.
BINGO.

...HARDLY A DOLLAR TO THEIR NAMES, BUT THEY FILL THAT COLLECTION BIN EVER SINGLE--
VRRRMMMMM
WHAT IN THE HELL--?
VRRRMMMMM
VRRROOOOMMMMMM
HOLY SHIT!
WOOOO-WEEEE!
EASY THERE, BO DUKE. WE DON'T WANT 'EM DEAD.
FIIIINNNNE.
SCREEEEECH

I'LL SNAG DREW. YOU GO AND TAKE CARE OF HIS SECURITY TEAM.
AND OCKY...
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO KILL EVERYONE ALL THE TIME. OKAY?
YEAH, I GOT IT.
COME ON, DREW! I JUST WANT TO TALK, SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO SINCE I KILLED YOUR LEADER.
THEY NEVER JUST STOP. JUST ONCE.

=OOOF!=
OUR CRACK RESEARCH TEAM TELLS US THAT YOU AND RODIN USED TO BE BLACK LAMP B-F-FS BACK IN THE DAY.
I'M GUESSING YOU KNEW ALL ABOUT THE FACILITY, AND YOU'VE PROBABLY BEEN THERE SINCE THE ENTIRE PLACE-- AND RODIN--WENT KABOOM.
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND I'M NOT TELLING YOU A THING. YOU CAN GO TO HELL.
I WILL, ONE DAY. BUT NOT YET.
IN THE MEANTIME, I HAVE ONE QUESTION: WHY'D YOU TURN OVER SAMHAIN'S DNA TO MORINTO?
I'LL DIE BEFORE I TELL.
THAT CAN BE ARRANGED.
YOU KNOW WHAT? IT DOESN'T EVEN MATTER. YOU'RE ALREADY DEAD. SO AM I, FOR THAT MATTER. WE'RE RACING TO THE SAME RED LIGHT.
MORINTO NEEDED THE GENETICS OF PURE EVIL, AND I WAS HAPPY TO OBLIGE. SAMHAIN'S EVIL IS THE ONE PIECE THE MONSTERS HAVE BEEN MISSING FOR CENTURIES. HIS GENETIC CODE WILL ENABLE THE DEATH SEED TO SERVE ITS TRUE PURPOSE...
...THE REBIRTH OF ATTAN-SOOLU.

ATTAN-SOOLU? SOUNDS LIKE BABY GIBBERISH. TELL ME WHEN I'M SUPPOSED TO GET NERVOUS.
GET YOUR LAUGHS WHILE YOU CAN. YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.
I HATE TO CALL OUT THE BLACK LAMP HANDBOOK, BUT I THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE ALL ABOUT SAMHAIN.
I'M GUESSING I DON'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU HOW THAT TURNED OUT.
THE BLACK LAMP IS ABOUT PURIFYING THE WORLD OF THE LIKES OF YOU AT ANY COST. THAT IS OUR MISSION.
AND SOON, ATTAN-SOOLU WILL DO JUST THAT. ENJOY YOUR PAINFUL DEATH, HACK.
WELL, THAT'S AN INTERESTING RESPONSE.

THIS IS THE BLOOD THAT NEVER WEARS AWAY.
THE BLOOD OF *WAR*.
WEAR IT WITH PRIDE, WARLORD, AND COMMAND YOUR FORCES WELL.
WE STILL HAVE MUCH WORK AHEAD OF US IN AMASSING OUR ARMY. FOR THE TIME BEING, I HAVE A MISSION FOR ALL OF YOU:
KILL THE MONSTER HUNTER, DELROY.
KILL HIS FRIENDS.
BRING THEIR BODIES TO *ME*.

THERE WERE MANY, MANY DIFFICULT YEARS FOLLOWING THE DEFEAT OF ATTAN-SOOLU AND THE GREAT EXILE.
THE MONSTERS SLAVED TO CARVE OUT A HOME DEEPER BENEATH THE EARTH, BATTLING CONDITIONS AND GEOLOGY TO WHICH THEY WERE UNACCUSTOMED.
MANY GREW SICKLY AND WEAK, TAINTING THEIR GENETICS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.
MANY MORE WERE LOST ALONG THE WAY.
A CHANGE BEGAN TO OCCUR IN THE SPECIES. ONCE PROUD AND STRONG, THEY GREW ACCUSTOMED TO SHAME AND PROSTRATION. THEY GREW ACCUSTOMED TO...
...SUBJUGATION.

BUT THE SOUND OF A WHIP CRACKING CAN ONLY BE EFFECTIVE IN PRODUCING SUBSERVIENCE FOR SO LONG.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THE WHIP HAS BEEN ABSENT-- ESPECIALLY WHEN ITS POWER IS AN ILLUSION.
A LEADER ROSE TO GIVE VOICE TO THE MONSTERS' SUFFERING, THEIR INDIGNATION...
... THEIR RAGE.
IN THEIR HEARTS, WHETHER THEY WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT OR NOT, ALL DOWNTRODDEN SPECIES HARBOR A DESIRE FOR ONE THING: VENGEANCE AGAINST THEIR OPPRESSORS.
THE HUMANS WHO KILLED THEIR GOD.
THE HUMANS WHO DROVE THEM FROM THEIR HOME.
THE HUMANS WHO RELEGATED THEM TO MYTH AND FANTASY.
MORINTO GAVE THEM STRENGTH TO SEE PAST THEIR OWN STORY, THE ONE THAT SAID THEY WERE TOO WEAK, TOO INFERIOR, TO STAND TALL AGAINST THESE VILLAINS.

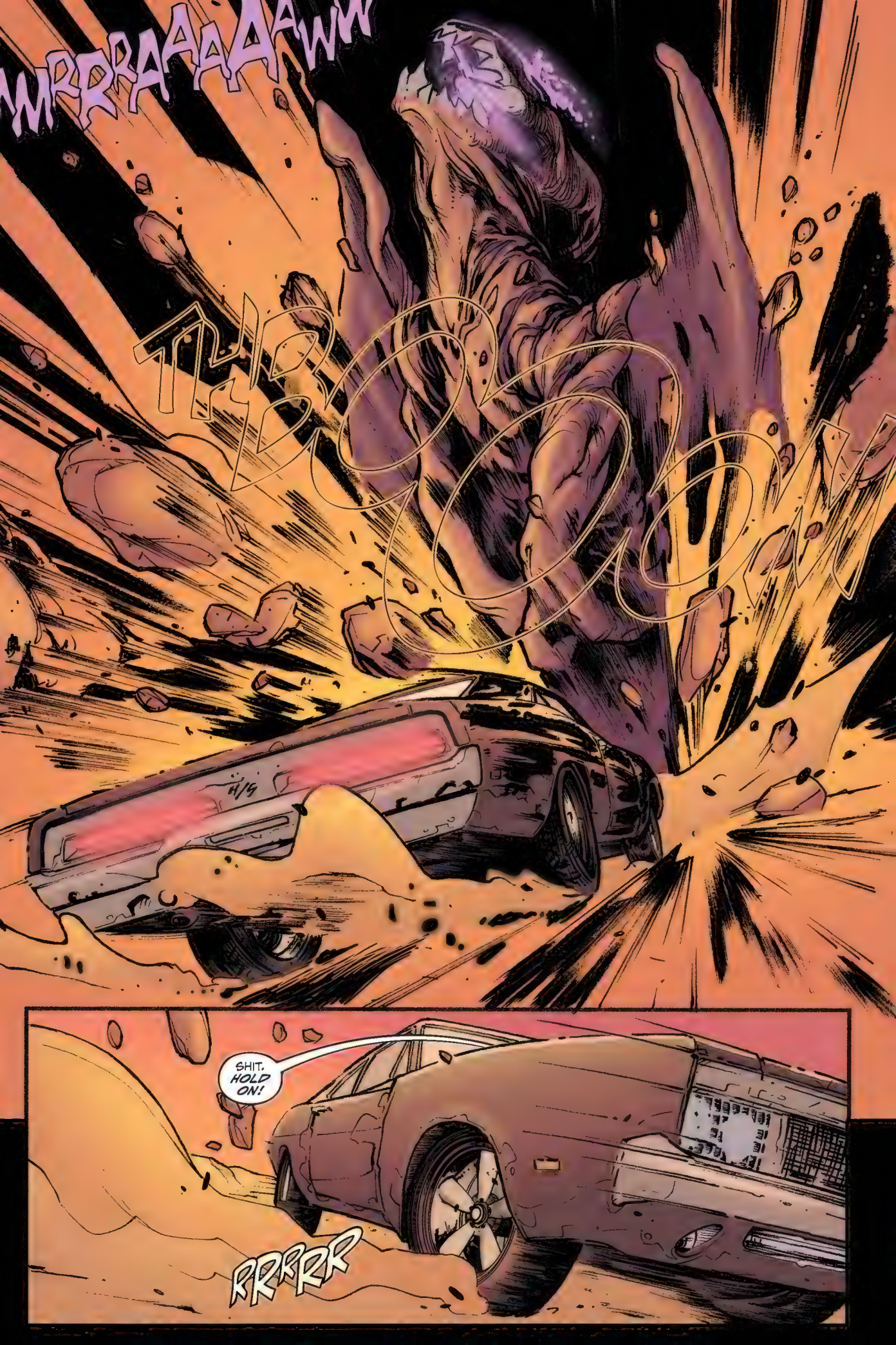
MORINTO GAVE THEM A REVOLUTION.

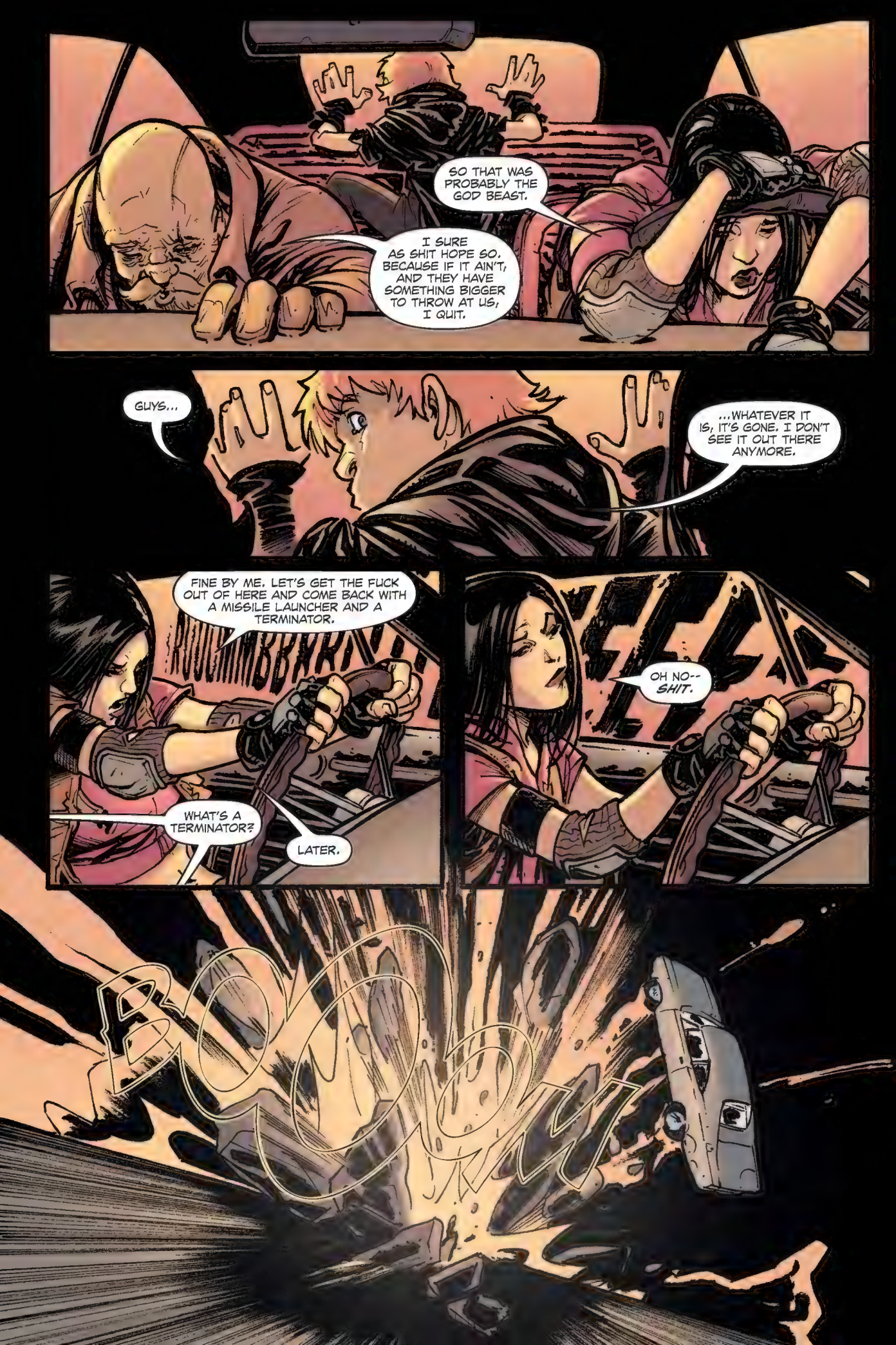
IN OUR LINE OF WORK, HACK, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'S COMIN' AROUND THE BEND.
THAT'S WHY I'VE MADE IT A POINT TO KEEP SOME SUPPLY DROPS ALL AROUND THIS DESERT.
I'M READY TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.
I'M TRYING TO THINK OF THE BEST WORD--THE *PRECISE* WORD--TO CALL THIS. BECAUSE "SURVIVALIST" DOESN'T QUITE CUT IT.
WHOA, CHECK THIS OUT!
THIS. IS. *AWESOME!*
WHAT? IT'S JUST IN CASE I RUN OUT OF BULLETS. AND GRENADES. AND DYNAMITE...
KEEP IT, KID. A PRESENT FROM YOUR UNKY DELROY.

SO HOW MANY STRONG IS THIS ARMY?
WE LOOKING AT A FEW DOZEN, OR IS THIS SOME SORT OF LORD OF THE RINGS LEGION HERE?
THE NOTE DIDN'T SAY.
THIS GOD BEAST, WHAT'S ITS STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES? MOST IMPORTANTLY: HOW DO WE KILL IT?
DON'T KNOW.
YOUR MAN DIDN'T GIVE YOU A WHOLE LOT TO STRATEGIZE WITH, DID HE?
NO, HACK. ALL HE DOES IS RISK HIS HIDE EVERY DAY WORKING AS A MOLE RIGHT UNDER MORINTO'S NOSE.
HE ACTED LIKE A TRAITOR TO HUMANKIND AND WORKED HIS WAY UP THE MONSTER RANKS. NOT MANY BRAVE ENOUGH TO DO THAT.
TOUCHY, TOUCHY.
YEAH, WELL, THIS MAN HAS BEEN THERE FOR ME THROUGH A LOTTA HELL. DON'T KNOW WHERE I'D BE WITHOUT 'IM.
AH, SHIT. I DIDN'T MEAN TO--
DON'T GET MUSHY ON ME NOW, HACK.
WE GOT SOME KILLIN' TO DO.

SOON, THE HATCHINGS WILL REQUIRE CEREMONIES, A PROPER WELCOME FOR THE CHILDREN OF ATTAN-SOOLU.
TELL ME, BEAST: CAN YOU FIGHT?
FIGHT... YES. KILL HUMANS.
HE'S EVEN SHOWING SIGNS OF ATTAN-SOOLU'S WILL. GOOD, VERY GOOD.
BUT YOU ARE *NOT* ATTAN-SOOLU.
YOU WILL FIGHT, YES. YOU WILL KILL MANY HUMANS BY THE TIME THIS WAR IS OVER. BUT YOU WILL DO IT FOR YOUR NEW GOD: *MORINTO*.
MORINTO GOD... KILL FOR MORINTO.
YOUR DEVOTION IS REWARDED WITH A PROMOTION TO THE FRONT LINE.
YOUR DEPLOYMENT BEGINS IMMEDIATELY.

THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE IS ALL BUT LOST TO US AT THIS POINT, SO LET'S NOT EVEN THINK ABOUT COUNTING ON THAT.
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT. BUT THERE ARE MORE...HAZARDOUS WAYS TO GET INTO THE MINES.
THIS IS GOING TO BE SO MUCH FUN!
HEY...
...YOU FEEL SOMETHING? LIKE A GIANT GODDAMN EARTHQUA--?
RRRUMMBBLE


WMRRRAAAAAAWW
THBOOOM
SHIT. HOLD ON!
RRRRR


SO THAT WAS PROBABLY THE GOD BEAST.
I SURE AS SHIT HOPE SO. BECAUSE IF IT AIN'T, AND THEY HAVE SOMETHING BIGGER TO THROW AT US, I QUIT.
GUYS...
...WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S GONE. I DON'T SEE IT OUT THERE ANYMORE.
FINE BY ME. LET'S GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE AND COME BACK WITH A MISSILE LAUNCHER AND A TERMINATOR.
WHAT'S A TERMINATOR?
LATER.
OH NO-- SHIT.
BOOM

=OOOF!=
YOU OKAY, OLD MAN? HOW'RE THOSE OLD BONES HOLDING UP?
JUST FINE, THANK YOU. THEY'RE FORTIFIED BY EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM, SO SHUT IT.
WHAT'S THE NEXT MOVE? SEEMS LIKE THE CAR CAN STILL RUN.
THERE'S ONLY *ONE* MOVE, NOW AND FOREVER.
WE FIGHT.

OKAY. LET'S GO BIG AND THEN GO HOME.
OCKY, ANY QUESTIONS?
NOPE. JUST TELL ME WHERE TO STAB.
OH, FER CHRISSAKE!
DEL, YOU'RE ON THE GOD BEAST.
OCKY, GO KILL YOUR HIDEOUS BROTHER.

"I'LL TAKE THE ARMY."
RAAHHH!!
SUFFF!

SHE IS A FIERCE ONE, EVEN FOR A HUMAN. AGGRESSIVE.
SHE WILL BE A PRIZED ADDITION TO MY ARMY.
GO, MY CHILDREN...
...CONSUME.
CCZZ CCCCZZZZ CCCZZZ CCZZ
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU BITCHES HAD ENOUGH?
C'MON, I WAS JUST STARTING TO BREAK A SWEAT.
WHOA-- WHAT THE FUCK?!
GET OFF!

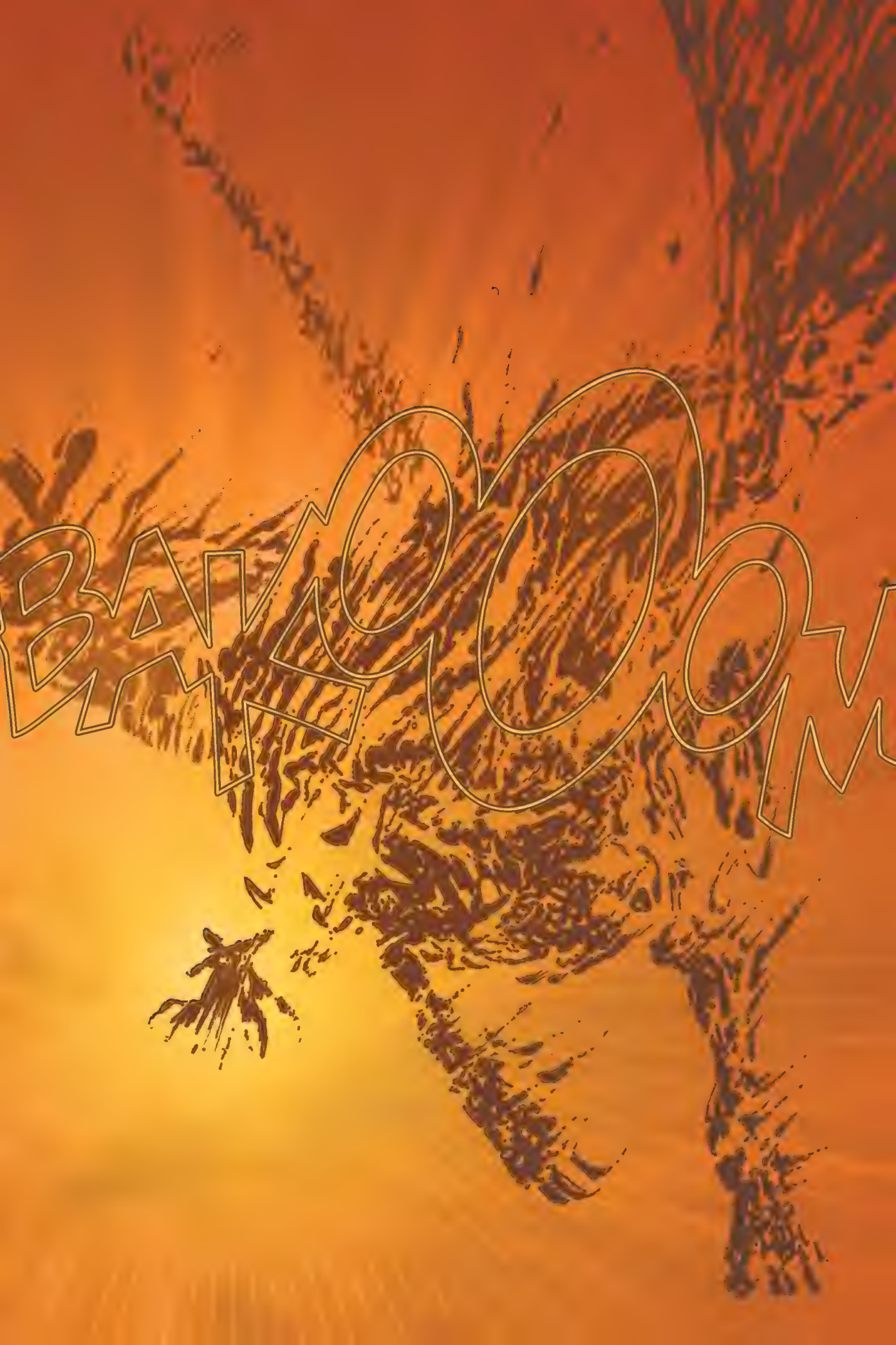
AAAHHHHH!
NOW YOU'RE FUCKED.
NO.
SSLLOSH
TOLD YOU.
NNNGHH.
COME ON, CASSIE, COME ON! PLEASE BE OKAY.
CASSIE!
CASSIE!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, CASSANDRA?
=COUGH= =COUGH=
HA. YEAH, SORRY. =COUGH=
FOOD JUST WENT DOWN THE WRONG PIPE.
GOOD. I CAN KILL SLASHERS WITH YOU, BUT I AM NOT SURE I CAN HELP YOU WITH VENGEFUL BROCCOLI.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT. VLAD THE VEGETABLE SLAYER HAS A GOOD RING TO IT.
THIS FOOD, DESPITE TRYING TO KILL ME, IS INCREDIBLE.
THE CASSIE HACK SEAL OF APPROVAL? I'VE OUTDONE MYSELF.
SERIOUSLY. THANKS.
=COUGH=
UH OH, DID THE "BROCCOLI STRANGLER" STRIKE AGAIN?

=COUGH=
CASSANDRA, I...
VLAD?
OH GOD.
VLAD!!
PLEASE...
...NOT AGAIN.

GAH!
BLAGGH!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
ALL RIGHT, ASSHOLE. YOU WANT TO PLAY HEAD GAMES? I HAVE ONE AS WELL. IT ENTAILS ME TAKING YOURS COMPLETELY OFF.
GET THE GUARDS. MORINTO IS MINE.
CAN I TAKE THEIR HEADS, TOO?
KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF, KID.
GRAAAAHH--
OH NO.

GOD BEAST?
=PEH=
MORE LIKE GRANNY BEAST, YOU PIE THROWER.
NNRRRAAAAAWW
I TOLD YOU, HACK.
WHATEVER IT TAKES.
DELROY, NO!

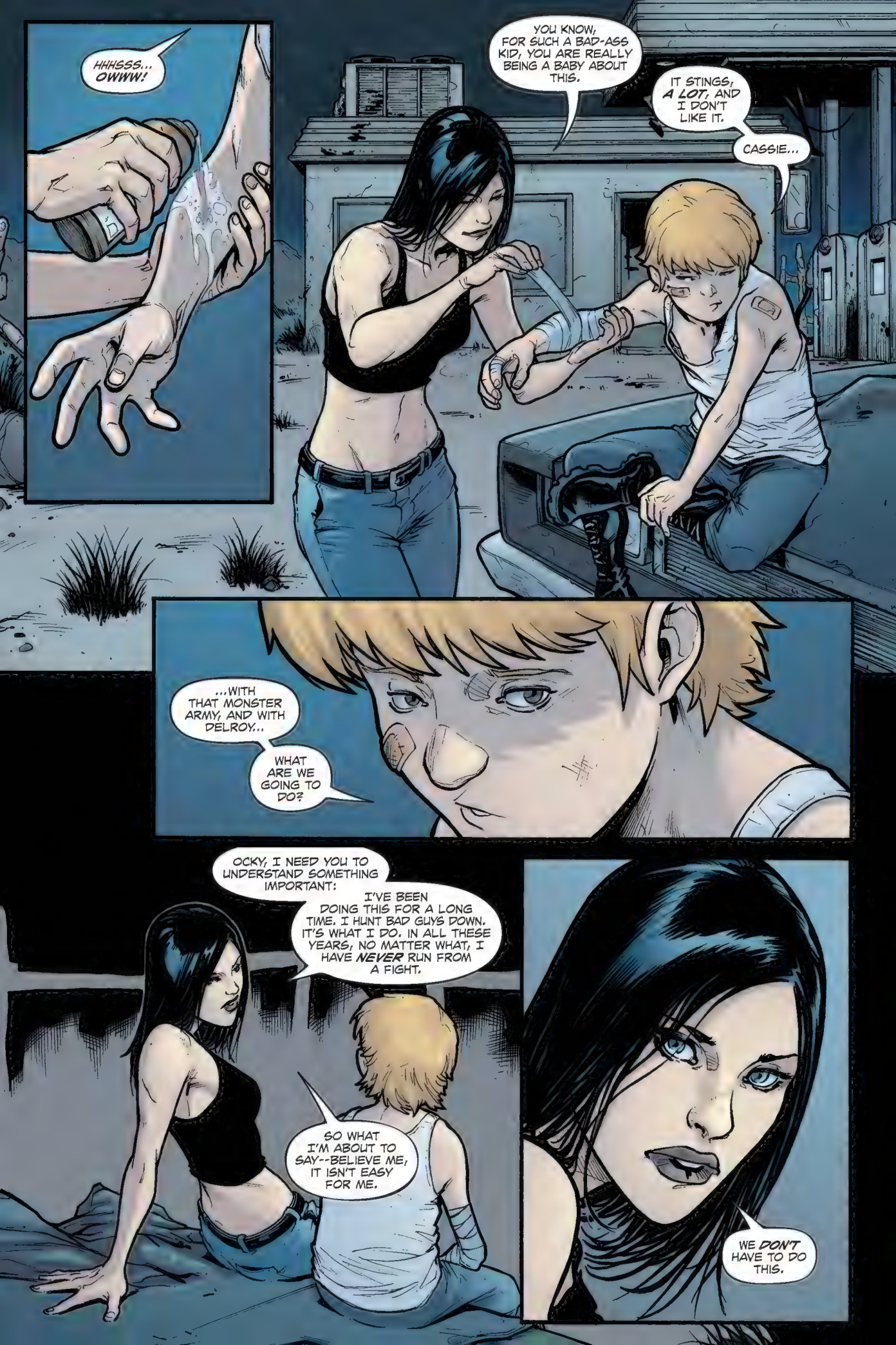

BAMBOO

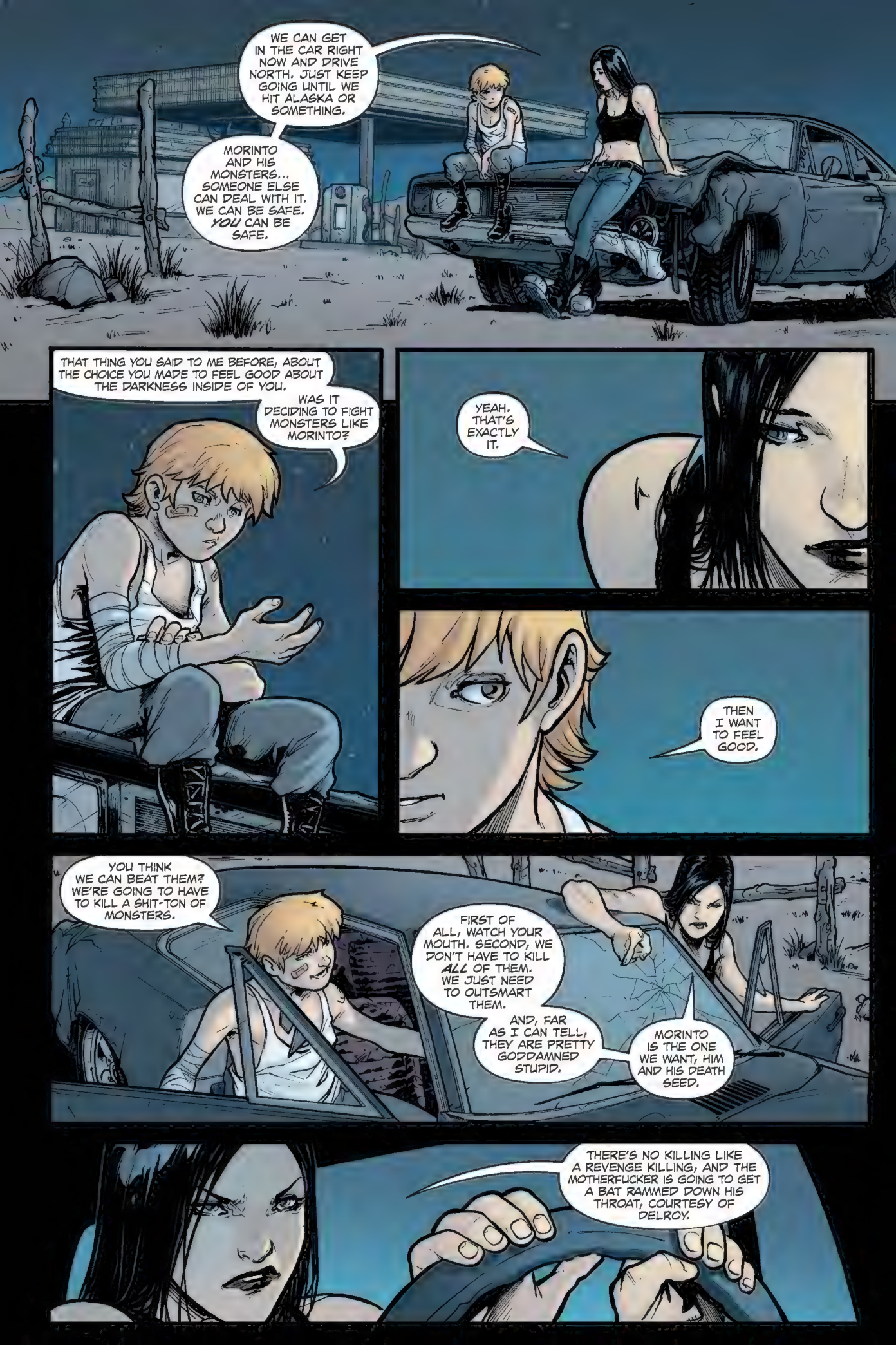
NOOOOO!
MORINTO!
WELL DONE, BOTH OF YOU.

YOU DEFEATED THE FIRST WAVE.
HOLY FUCK.

OCKY, MOVE. NOW!
GET OFF ME! I'LL KILL EVERY ONE OF THEM IF I HAVE TO!
LISTEN, IT'S TAKING EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING TO GO AGAINST MY URGE TO FIGHT. BUT IF WE STAY...
...WE'LL BOTH BE DEAD.
BUT WHAT ABOUT DELROY?!
TRUST ME...
"...THIS SHIT IS FAR FROM OVER."

NO.
GRAAAHHH!


HHHSSS... OWWW!
YOU KNOW, FOR SUCH A BAD-ASS KID, YOU ARE REALLY BEING A BABY ABOUT THIS.
IT STINGS, A LOT, AND I DON'T LIKE IT.
CASSIE...
...WITH THAT MONSTER ARMY, AND WITH DELROY...
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
OCKY, I NEED YOU TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING IMPORTANT:
I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR A LONG TIME. I HUNT BAD GUYS DOWN. IT'S WHAT I DO. IN ALL THESE YEARS, NO MATTER WHAT, I HAVE NEVER RUN FROM A FIGHT.
SO WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY--BELIEVE ME, IT ISN'T EASY FOR ME.
WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.


WE CAN GET IN THE CAR RIGHT NOW AND DRIVE NORTH. JUST KEEP GOING UNTIL WE HIT ALASKA OR SOMETHING.
MORINTO AND HIS MONSTERS... SOMEONE ELSE CAN DEAL WITH IT. WE CAN BE SAFE. YOU CAN BE SAFE.
THAT THING YOU SAID TO ME BEFORE, ABOUT THE CHOICE YOU MADE TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT THE DARKNESS INSIDE OF YOU.
WAS IT DECIDING TO FIGHT MONSTERS LIKE MORINTO?
YEAH. THAT'S EXACTLY IT.
THEN I WANT TO FEEL GOOD.
YOU THINK WE CAN BEAT THEM? WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO KILL A SHIT-TON OF MONSTERS.
FIRST OF ALL, WATCH YOUR MOUTH. SECOND, WE DON'T HAVE TO KILL ALL OF THEM. WE JUST NEED TO OUTSMART THEM.
AND, FAR AS I CAN TELL, THEY ARE PRETTY GODDAMNED STUPID.
MORINTO IS THE ONE WE WANT, HIM AND HIS DEATH SEED.
THERE'S NO KILLING LIKE A REVENGE KILLING, AND THE MOTHERFUCKER IS GOING TO GET A BAT RAMMED DOWN HIS THROAT, COURTESY OF DELROY.

FOR YEARS, THE HUMANS HAVE LORDED OVER THE SURFACE WHILE OUR KIND HAS STRUGGLED AND SUFFERED IN THIS UNDERGROUND HELL.
THESE HUMANS HAVE LOST THEIR FEAR OF THE DARK, FEARING EACH OTHER INSTEAD.
SOON, THEY WILL REALIZE WHO THEIR REAL ENEMY IS. THEY WILL FEEL THE PAIN OF LOSS IN THE MOMENTS BEFORE WE TAKE THEIR WORLD AWAY.
COME SUNDOWN, OUR GOD WILL RISE AGAIN AND I WILL BECOME ONE WITH HIM. UNITED, WE WILL BE UNSTOPPABLE.
PREPARE YOURSELVES...

...NOW IS THE TIME FOR WAR!

"CASSIE, DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD HAVE LOOTED DELROY'S SECRET WEAPON STORAGE?"
I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE FOR GUNS. THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY THE BEST WEAPON FOR STEALTH MISSIONS.
WE'RE BEING STEALTH?
WELL, LET'S HOPE SO. NOW WHERE THE HECK WAS THAT ROCK? DELROY PUSHED IT BACK AND--
HEY! GET AWAY FROM THERE BEFORE THEY SEE YOU!
SURE THING, STRANGER. SHOULD WE JUST FOLLOW YOUR VOICE TO EXACTLY WHERE YOU WANT US TO GO?
I'M A FRIEND OF DELROY'S. I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.
COME ON. GET YOUR BUTTS AWAY FROM THERE.

SO YOU'RE DELROY'S MAN ON THE INSIDE? I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU'D BE--
A MONSTER, LIKE THEM? MORINTO HAS ALWAYS LIKED KEEPING ONE HUMAN CLOSE TO HIM, AS BOTH AN ADVISOR AND A PET. HE'S MORE FASCINATED WITH US THAN HE CARES TO ADMIT.
LISTEN, LUIS. DELROY IS...
I HEARD THROUGH MORINTO. THAT SON OF A BITCH WAS BASKING IN HIS ACCOMPLISHMENT. AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, HE FINALLY GOT DELROY.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT DELROY WOULD GET HIM FIRST.
LISTEN, YOUR GRIEF SEEMS GENUINE, BUT WE DON'T KNOW YOU. YOU COULD BE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE, OR YOU COULD BE LEADING US RIGHT INTO A TRAP.
I LEFT DELROY THE NOTE WARNING HIM ABOUT THE GOD BEAST. WE HAD A SYSTEM OF WHITE CHALK MARKINGS. NO ONE ELSE COULD POSSIBLY KNOW ABOUT THAT.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR APPREHENSION, BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME. THE FINAL DEATH SEED IS ABOUT TO HATCH. WE NEED TO KILL MORINTO BEFORE IT IS BORN.
I'M GUESSING YOU HAVE A PLAN.
HELL YEAH, I DO.

GOTTA BE HONEST, I WAS HOPING HIS PLAN WASN'T GONNA HAVE THE WORD "CAVE" IN IT.
YEAH, BUT LUCKILY FOR US, IT HAS THE WORDS "KILL" AND "MORINTO" IN IT.
TOUCHÉ, YOUNG MAN. TOUCHÉ.
AH, THERE WE GO. THAT MUST BE THE BRIDGE LUIS WAS TALKING ABOUT.
I DON'T SEE WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS. WE JUST--
OH. THAT'S THE BIG DEAL--A HORDE OF MONSTERS WHO WILL HAPPILY TAKE THE SKIN OFF OUR BONES.
DON'T GO OVERBOARD WITH THE KILLING. WE JUST NEED TO GET TO THE BRIDGE. AND BE--
CAREFUL, I KNOW. GEEZ. YOU ACT LIKE I WASN'T BORN TO DO THIS.

GREAT, YOU'RE TALKING BACK ALREADY. CAN'T WAIT FOR YOUR TEENAGE YEARS?
ALL RIGHT, WE GO ON THREE.
AAAHH!
SLUSHH
I WAS COUNTING DOWN FROM THREE, OCTOBER!
YOU COUNT TOO SLOW. WE'RE HERE. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
JUST GET TO THE BRIDGE. YOU AND I WILL TALK LATER!
HRRRMMM.
HACK.

ALMOST THERE. GET READY TO RUN.
JUST A FEW MORE KILLS.
OCKY!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
IF THEY GET UP HERE, TAKE THEM CAPTIVE. I WANT THEM TO--
MORINTO, SHUT YOUR MOUTH FOR TWO SECONDS. I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TELL YOU THIS FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.
NOW, LUIS! NOW!
GO FUCK YOURSELF.
CLICK
BA-OOM

AAAAAH, CASSIE!
NEXT TIME...
...DO EXACTLY WHAT I TELL YOU TO DO.
YOUR DEATH WILL BE LONGER AND MORE PAINFUL THAN YOU CAN EVER IMAGINE.
FIRST, YOU CAN WATCH YOUR FRIENDS GET SLAUGHTERED.
GO. KILL THEM BOTH. MAKE IT QUICK.

MORINTO, I'VE BEEN DEALING WITH ASSHOLES LIKE YOU FOR A LONG TIME.
YOUR PET KILLED OUR FRIEND. NOW WE'RE GOING TO KILL YOU. OCKY...
...NOW YOU CAN GO DO WHAT YOU WERE BORN TO DO.
OOOFFF!

CASSIE, NO!
AH SHIT!
OCKY, GO! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. GET THE SEED!
THAT SEED IS MINE.
GO, MY MINIONS...
...MAKE HIM STRONGER THAN EVER.

COME, BOY. DO AS I COMMAND AND I WILL MAKE YOU A KING.
DO YOU EVER STOP TALKING?
YOU'LL STOP HEARING MY VOICE THE MOMENT BEFORE YOU LEAVE THIS WORLD.
UNGH!

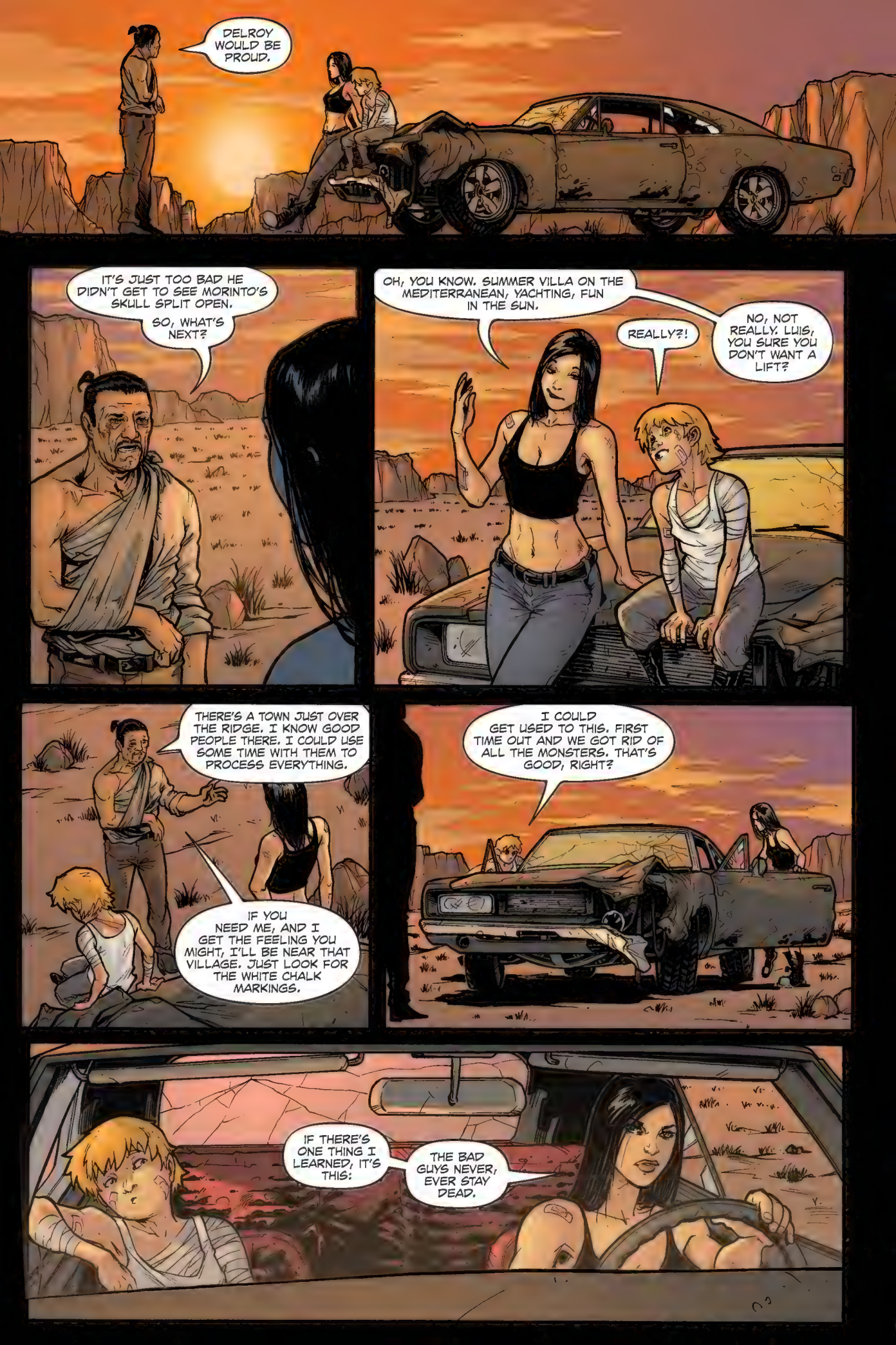
ERGGH!
=OOMPH!=
THAT ALL YOU GOT, SWEETHEART?
YOU'RE DEFEATED. YOU'RE ABOUT TO FALL TO YOUR DEATH.
MAYBE...
...BUT I WON'T GO ALONE.

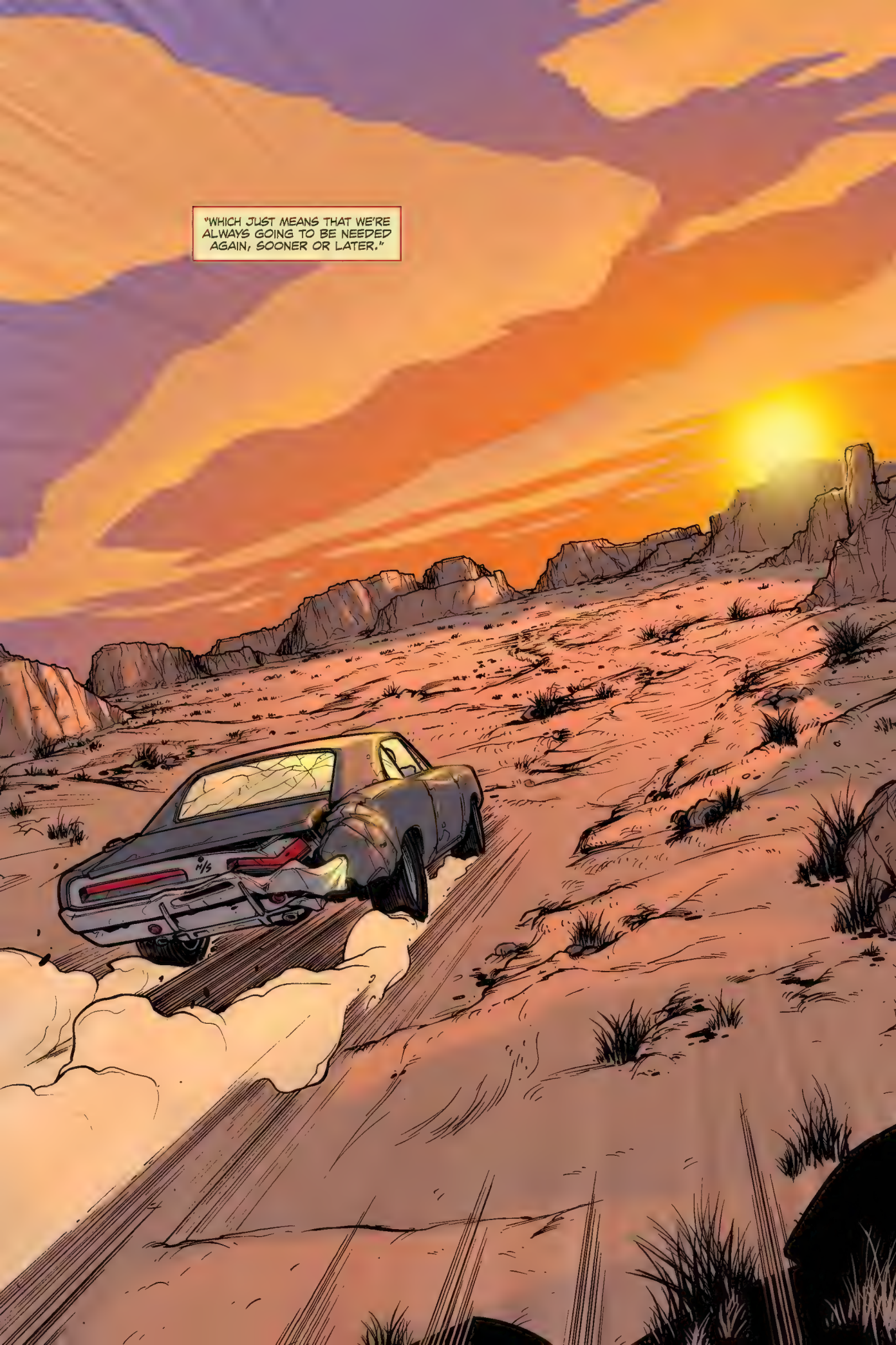
NO!
=OOOF!=

I WAS GOING TO BE A GOD.
YOU RUINED MY DESTINY, DAMNED MY ENTIRE KIND TO ENDLESS SUFFERING IN THIS UNDERGROUND HELL.
AS MUCH AS I'D RELISH SEEING YOU SUFFER, I THINK I'LL ENJOY SEEING YOU DEAD MUCH, MUCH MORE.
YOU UGLY SON OF A BITCH. YOU MIGHT BE BIGGER AND STRONGER...
...BUT I'M FIGHTING FOR SOMETHING *WORTHWHILE.*
DON'T WORRY, CHILD. YOUR MOTHER FIGURE WILL BE JOINING YOU VERY SOON.

YOU'RE RIGHT, OCKY. HE NEVER SHUTS THE FUCK UP.
MRRRAWWW
WWW--AAARRKKK--
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HAPPY THIS THING'S DEATH MAKES ME.

YOU DEFINITELY HAVE SOME BROKEN RIBS. ANYTHING ELSE? BLURRED VISION? HOW'S YOUR HEAD? YOU DIZZY?
I'M FIIIIINE.
UNNNGGGHHH...
SHIT, LUIS, YOU OKAY?
YEAH, JUST... A LITTLE TOO STABBED FOR MY LIKING.
YOU KNOW ANOTHER WAY OUT OF HERE, RIGHT?
OF COURSE. WHY?
WELL...
...THOSE MONSTERS OVER THERE LOOK PRETTY PISSED. WE SHOULD PROBABLY GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
FAST.


DELROY WOULD BE PROUD.
IT'S JUST TOO BAD HE DIDN'T GET TO SEE MORINTO'S SKULL SPLIT OPEN.
SO, WHAT'S NEXT?
OH, YOU KNOW. SUMMER VILLA ON THE MEDITERRANEAN, YACHTING, FUN IN THE SUN.
REALLY?!
NO, NOT REALLY. LUIS, YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT A LIFT?
THERE'S A TOWN JUST OVER THE RIDGE. I KNOW GOOD PEOPLE THERE. I COULD USE SOME TIME WITH THEM TO PROCESS EVERYTHING.
IF YOU NEED ME, AND I GET THE FEELING YOU MIGHT, I'LL BE NEAR THAT VILLAGE. JUST LOOK FOR THE WHITE CHALK MARKINGS.
I COULD GET USED TO THIS. FIRST TIME OUT AND WE GOT RID OF ALL THE MONSTERS. THAT'S GOOD, RIGHT?
IF THERE'S ONE THING I LEARNED, IT'S THIS:
THE BAD GUYS NEVER, EVER STAY DEAD.


"WHICH JUST MEANS THAT WE'RE ALWAYS GOING TO BE NEEDED AGAIN, SOONER OR LATER."

EPILOGUE.
HNGGH... HNGGHHH...
FFFSSSS
STUPID MONSTERS. THEY'LL NEVER LEARN.
GIVE THEM TREMENDOUS POWER, AND STILL...
CLANK
...THEY NEVER KNOW HOW TO WIELD IT.
LUCKY FOR YOU, YOUNG GOD, YOU'VE FALLEN INTO THE RIGHT HANDS.
FIN.

Hack/Slash: Son of Samhain
#1 Second Printing Cover by
TIM SEELEY

Hack/Slash: Ressurection #1 cover A by
TIM SEELEY & ADDISON DUKE

THIS IS... SO EMBARRASSING.
RRRRRRRRRRRR
RRRRRRRRRR
THAT'S PART OF WHY I DO THIS SO FAR OUT OF THE WAY--I DON'T WANT ANYONE SEEING THAT THIS IS WHO I AM, NOW.
CASSIE HACK, REDUCED TO THIS.
BUT IT'S A LIVING, RIGHT?
WINNER:
FINALGIRL

UH, OKAY, DUDES, I'M OFF FOR TONIGHT.
AWWW, THAT WAS AWESOOOME!
FINALGIRL RULES!!
THE DADABOOK
FINALGIRL
SO, I DON'T REALLY HUNT MONSTERS ANYMORE. NOT REAL ONES, AT LEAST.
CAN I BE FRANK? I ACTUALLY KIND OF HATE VIDEO GAMES.
BUT ALL THOSE YEARS OF IRL MONSTER HUNTING GAVE ME RIDICULOUSLY GOOD HAND-EYE COORDINATION, ALONG WITH A PAIR OF COMPLETELY FRIED ADRENAL RECEPTORS, SO I NEVER CHOKE UNDER PRESSURE.
SO HERE WAS MY PLAN--LIVE OUT HERE, IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, WITH A TRAILER AND A CAT. I WASN'T ABOUT TO TRY THE BOUNTY HUNTING THING AGAIN, AND I SURE AS SHIT WASN'T GOING TO DO ANY JOB THAT REQUIRED ME TO WEAR AN APRON, A UNIFORM, OR LIPSTICK.
I SPENT A LOT OF TIME ON THE INTERNET, EATING BOWLS OF CEREAL IN MY UNDERWEAR AND CONSIDERING SOME OTHER QUICK WAYS TO MAKE MONEY, WHEN I HAPPENED TO FIND OUT THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE LITERALLY MADE THEIR LIVING PLAYING VIDEO GAMES WHERE YOU SHOOT ENDLESS HORDES OF ZOMBIES.
THE MORE YOU SHOOT, THE HAPPIER YOUR FANS GET, AND THE MORE MONEY THEY GIVE YOU.

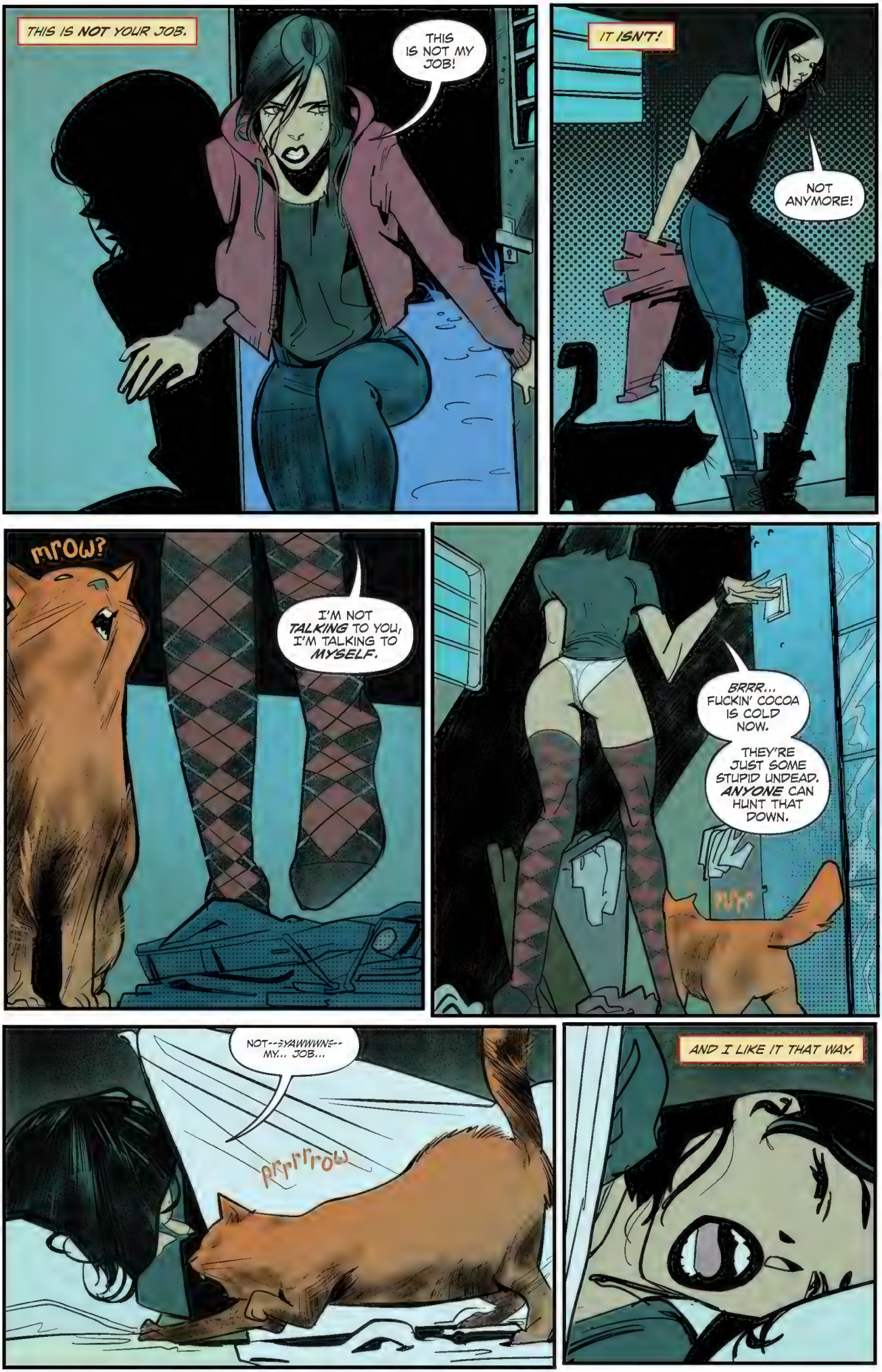
HELL, I DIDN'T MAKE MONEY PER ZOMBIE WHEN THEY WERE REAL ZOMBIES.
IT'S NOT A GREAT LIVING, BUT I'M NOT FANCY. I BOUGHT THE TRAILER OUTRIGHT AND THANKFULLY, DARIO EATS THE CHEAP KITTY KIBBLE. WHEN I WANT TO TREAT MYSELF, I DRIVE TO THE TRUCK STOP FOR BURGERS.
AND NOBODY GIVES A SHIT WHAT I DO WITH THE REST OF MY TIME. IT'S AMAZING.
BUT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, ON NIGHTS LIKE THIS, SOMETHING IN THE AIR MAKES ME THINK ABOUT RETURNING TO HUNTING SLASHERS.
BAM
BAM
BAM
RAAAUGUUGH...
I TOLD YOU AN HOUR AGO, HOLD THE FUCK ON, I AM STILL DECIDING!

FINE, JESUS, I GUESS IF I LEAVE YOU OUT THERE YOU'LL PROBABLY RIP THE MAIL LADY APART.
AND WE NEED HER, SHE BRINGS US CAT FOOD AND TORTILLA CHIPS.
I NEVER PUT ON PANTS ANYMORE, JUST SO YOU KNOW!
YOU CAN CONSIDER THIS A DATE!
ALL RIGHT, I GUESS. TIME TO WHIP IT OUT...
...AND SHOW IT OFF.
KISS

HOWWWOOOOOW!
NYARRRRRGH!
WHAM
ALL RIGHT, I'M COMING.
RRRRRR...
WHAP
KRRRK

RREEEEEEEE!!
LOOK...
...I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH IT SUCKS OUT HERE TONIGHT...
...I FUCKING--
ARRROOOOO!
--HATE--
FWAK
--PEOPLE!
AT LEAST WHEN THEY COME OVER WITHOUT LETTING ME KNOW FIRST.

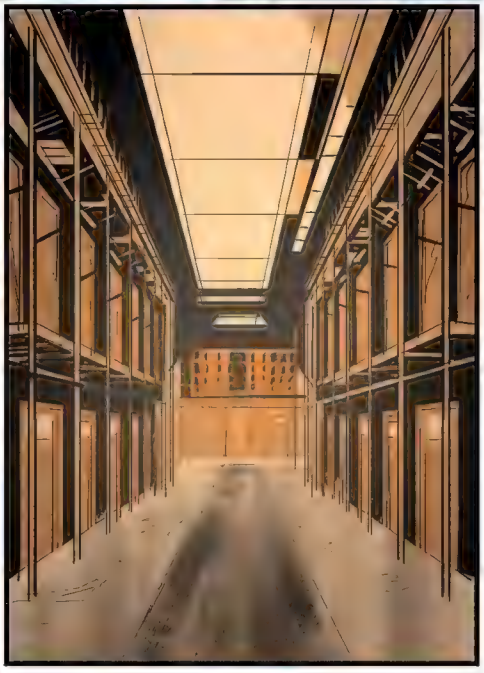
FUCK IT.
NO ONE'S COMING UP THIS WAY FOR DAYS. BY THEN I CAN FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.
OR I'LL JUST FIGURE OUT A WAY TO EXPLAIN WHY I HAVE BODIES IN MY YARD. THE BODIES OF TWO...
O'DOYLE
ZOMBIE... TWIN... INMATES?
O'DOYLE
TWINMATES?


THIS IS NOT YOUR JOB.
THIS IS NOT MY JOB!
IT ISN'T!
NOT ANYMORE!
mrow?
I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU, I'M TALKING TO MYSELF.
BRRR... FUCKIN' COCOA IS COLD NOW.
THEY'RE JUST SOME STUPID UNDEAD. ANYONE CAN HUNT THAT DOWN.
NOT--=YAWWWN=-- MY... JOB...
prrrrow
AND I LIKE IT THAT WAY.

YOU ARE GOOD SWINGER.
THAT'S NOT WHAT THAT MEANS, VLAD. BUDDY... DEAD BUDDY.
OH. I PUSH HIGHER.
SHOVE
WHUHH! WHOOOAH, HAHA!
HIGHER STILL. YOU CAN GO HIGHER, FRIEND CASSIE.
VLAD--!
GO HIGHER, CASSIE!

OH NO.
YOUR INSIDES ARE ALL OUT, CASSIE!
OO!
OOVEEDYAME SAY!
I CAN'T... UNDERSTAND YOU! ARE YOU TALKING... BACKWARDS?!
OOVIDYAME SAY POZDAY, FRIEND!
OOVIDYAME SAY POZDAY!

ENGLUND CORRECTION FACILITY.



DR. EZEKIEL CHASE
FACILITY MEDICAL
GENERAL PRACTICE

BRILLIANT. THE RECENT TWEAKS TO THE RESURRECTION FLUID SHOULD--
KZZZK-SHHHKK
WHAT IN THE--?!
WHAT?!
PREPOSTEROUS, WHAT WAS THE LAST THING RECORDED--
KSHHH
AHHHH, MISS HACK.
AS A SCIENTIST, IT WOULD BE UNTOWARD TO BELIEVE IN LUCK, HOWEVER...
...WHAT A PLEASANT HAPPENSTANCE.

NO MATTER! WE HAVE MORE PATIENTS. MORE SPECIMENS.
"AWAKE! SHAKE DREAMS FROM YOUR HAIR, MY PRETTY CHILD, MY SWEET ONE."
THAT'S JIM MORRISON.
I KNOW, I DETEST ROCK MUSIC, BUT HE WAS SOMETHING OF A DARK VISIONARY.
SLAP
NNNRRRR...
I CAN RELATE.
OUT UNTIL YOU HIT THE FENCE, THEN GO LOW. THERE'S A PLACE YOU CAN GET THROUGH.
OUR LITTLE SECRET.
MISS HACK WILL SEE YOU SHORTLY.

SKRAAAAPS
YOU HAVE... ONE NEW MESSAGE. FIRST MESSAGE:
HI CASSIE, THIS IS DOMINIQUE PEACETREE, I'M AN OLD FRIEND OF YOUR MOTHER'S-- I USED TO WORK WITH HER AT THE SCHOOL.
VVRRRMMMM
I HEARD AROUND THAT YOU WERE LIVING NEAR INDIGO RIVER THESE DAYS, AND I'VE GOT A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY THAT I THINK COULD REALLY BENEFIT BOTH OF US.
ANYWAY, HOPE YOU'RE WELL. LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!
BEEEP
HM.

HELLO?
HI, DOMINIQUE?
ENGLUND STATE PARK
Greywing Falls
INDIGO RIVER
Mt. Myers
ENGLUND CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
MT. BONNY
Mt. Gordon
CASSIE!
GLAD YOU GAVE ME A CALL BACK. IS IT TRUE YOU'RE LIVING NEAR INDIGO RIVER?
ISH.
WELL, I COULD USE SOME HELP AT THE CAMP, AND IT'S A BIT WARMER DOWN HERE THAN IT IS UP ON THE MOUNTAIN!
THE RIVER'S ALL MELTED, WE'VE BEEN FISHING!
CAMP...?

CAMP INDIGO RIVER! I THOUGHT YOU KNEW! I'M WORKING WITH KIDS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED LOSS OR TRAUMA DUE TO EXTREME VIOLENCE.
I'M LOOKING FOR SOME COUNSELORS WHO ARE GROWN UP NOW, AND HAVE MOVED PAST IT.

I WOULDN'T CALL MYSELF... GROWN UP...
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, YOU'RE TWENTY-FIVE! A STUNNING YOUNG WOMAN.

WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO AVOID IS THESE KIDS GOING OFF AND TAKING MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS, BECOMING WILD, UNTRAINED VIGILANTES.

WOULDN'T WANT THAT.
HOK

I'M SERIOUS, CASSIE. I KNEW YOUR MOTHER-- EVERYTHING SHE DID WAS FOR YOU.
ALL OF HER... ISSUES ASIDE, SHE ONLY EVER WANTED YOU TO HAVE PEACE. AND BE HAPPY.

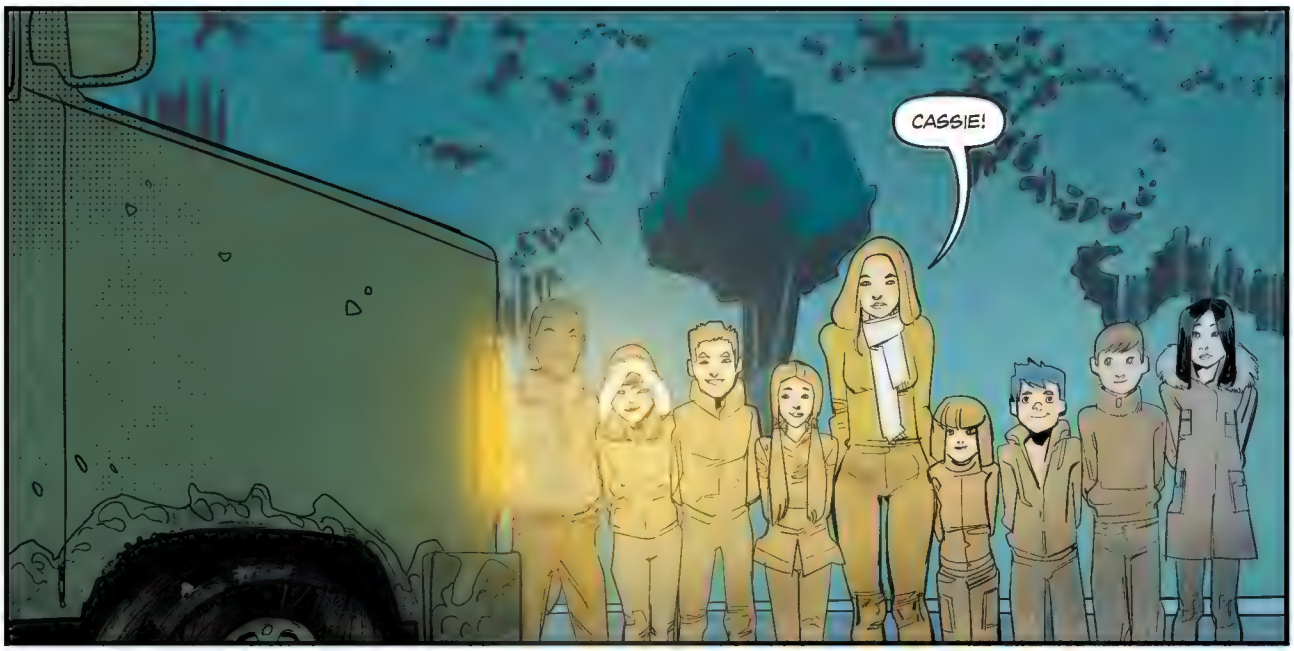
WELL, I CAN GUARANTEE I'VE TALKED TO HER MORE RECENTLY THAN YOU HAVE.
GIVE CAMP INDIGO RIVER A CHANCE, CASSIE. I THINK YOU'LL BE SURPRISED WITH WHAT YOU FIND HERE.
gurrhr
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT. REALLY.
GREAT! IF YOU DECIDE TO COME, WE'LL SEE YOU SATURDAY, OKAY?
OKAY.

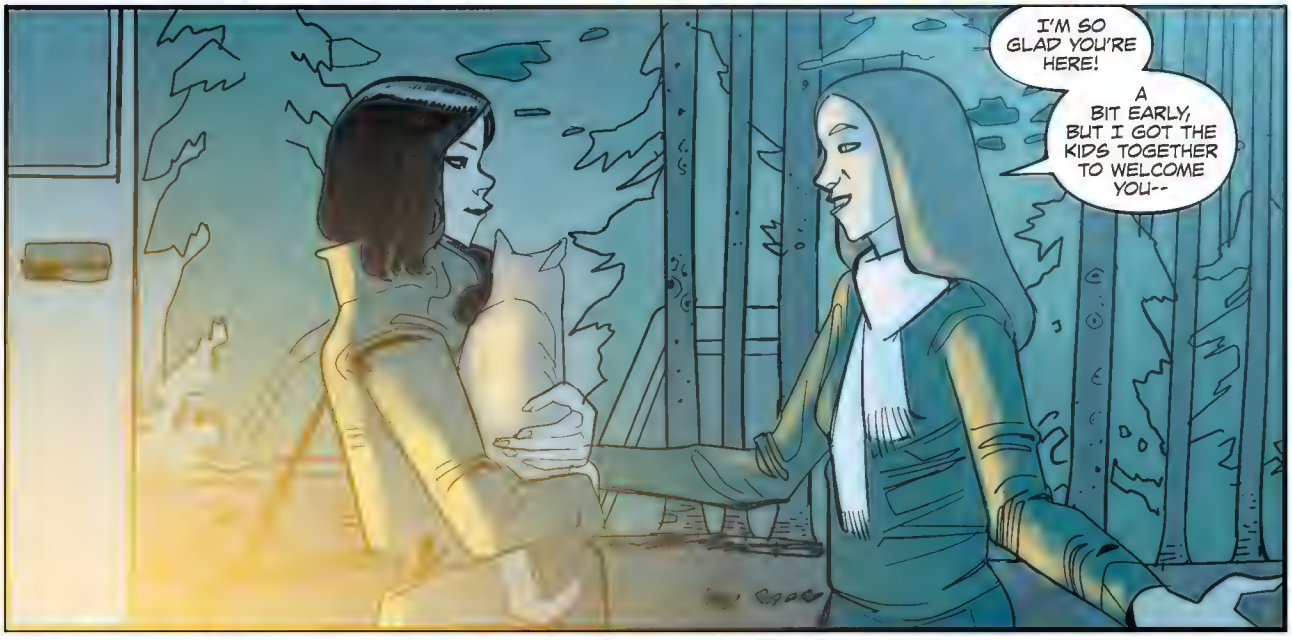
YEAH, THAT'S NOT HAPPENING. SOMEONE HAS TO FEED YOU, RIGHT?

WHAP
UNHHHHHHH!
thpppt!

NRRRARRRRR...
OH GODDAMMIT, GODDAMMIT--
STILL NOT MY JOB.
STILL NOT MY JOB, STILL--
MRRRRRR...
RAAAAA!
KWOK
--NOT--
KRAK
RRRR--!
--MY--
--JOB!
PWAK

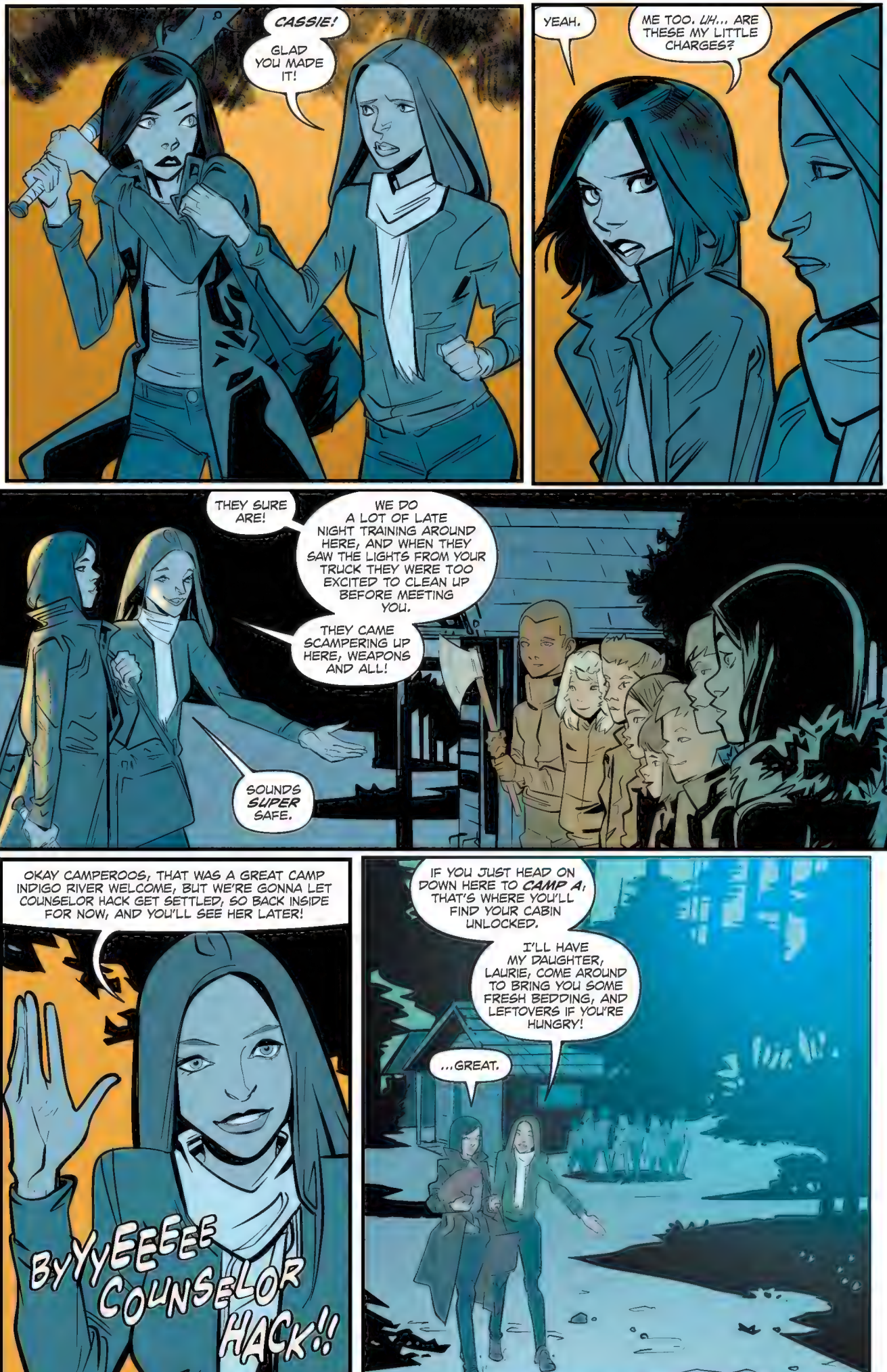
OKAY, YOU KNOW WHAT?
I DIDN'T MOVE OUT HERE FOR VISITORS.
SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE KNOWS WHERE WE ARE, DARIO.
TIME TO MOVE.
OF COURSE YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.
YOU WOULDN'T LAST A SECOND AGAINST A ZOMBIE.
nyaa
OHMIGOD, DARIO, DID YOU CLEAN UP THAT BODY?
nao?
I'M KIDDING, I TOTALLY TOOK CARE OF IT.


CASSIE!


I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!
A BIT EARLY, BUT I GOT THE KIDS TOGETHER TO WELCOME YOU--

WELCOME, COUNSELOR HACK!!

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE, IN MY DARKEST MOMENTS.
WE ALL HAVE. I'M NOT PROUD OF IT. BUT I DO WONDER...
...HOW MANY FIRST GRADERS COULD I TAKE IN A FIGHT?
WELCOME, COUNSELOR HACK!!
frpl?
HERE GOES--

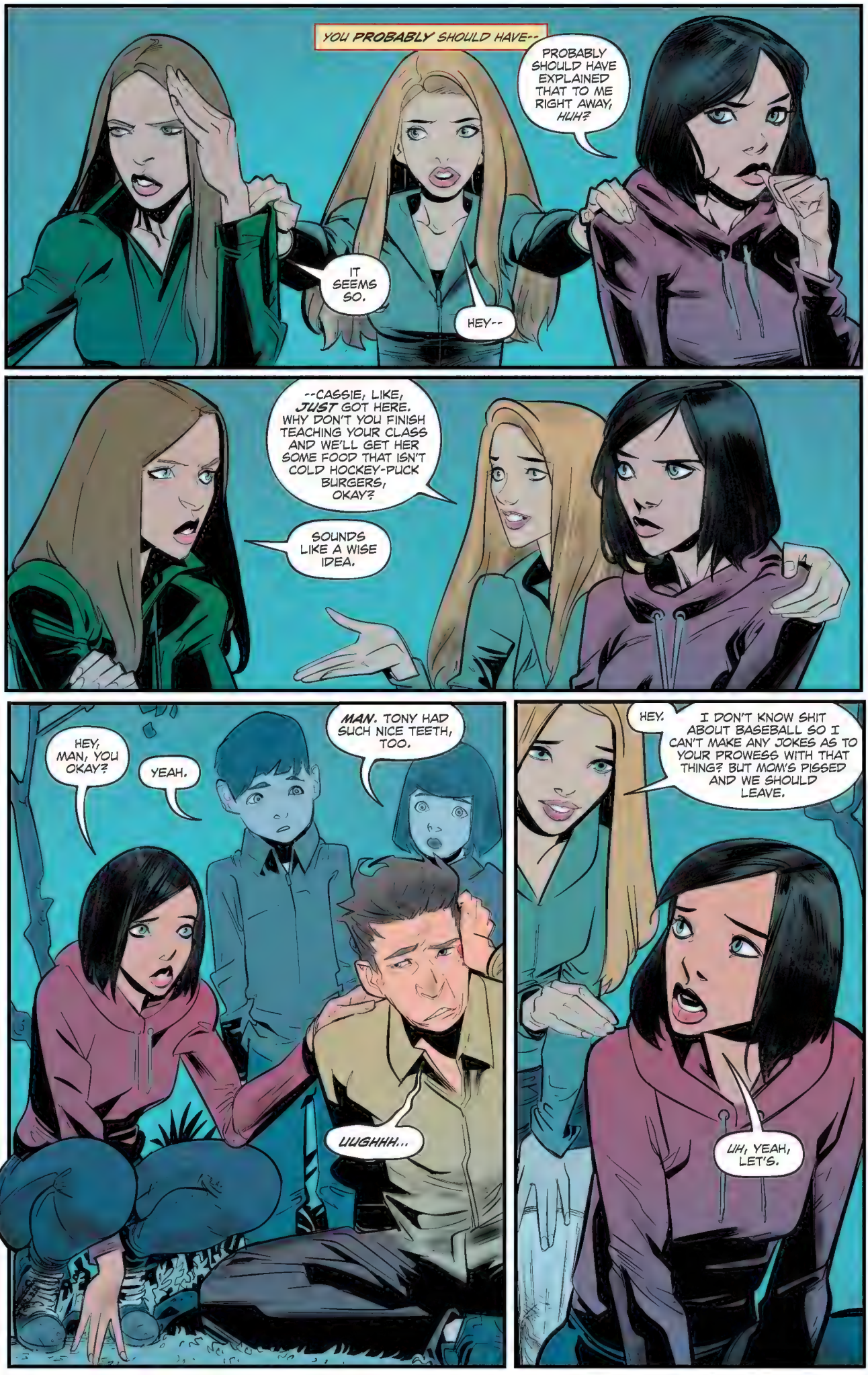

CASSIE!
GLAD YOU MADE IT!
YEAH.
ME TOO. UH... ARE THESE MY LITTLE CHARGES?
THEY SURE ARE!
WE DO A LOT OF LATE NIGHT TRAINING AROUND HERE, AND WHEN THEY SAW THE LIGHTS FROM YOUR TRUCK THEY WERE TOO EXCITED TO CLEAN UP BEFORE MEETING YOU.
THEY CAME SCAMPERING UP HERE, WEAPONS AND ALL!
SOUNDS SUPER SAFE.
OKAY CAMPEROOS, THAT WAS A GREAT CAMP INDIGO RIVER WELCOME, BUT WE'RE GONNA LET COUNSELOR HACK GET SETTLED, SO BACK INSIDE FOR NOW, AND YOU'LL SEE HER LATER!
BYYYEEEEE COUNSELOR HACK!!
IF YOU JUST HEAD ON DOWN HERE TO CAMP A, THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND YOUR CABIN UNLOCKED.
I'LL HAVE MY DAUGHTER, LAURIE, COME AROUND TO BRING YOU SOME FRESH BEDDING, AND LEFTOVERS IF YOU'RE HUNGRY!
...GREAT.

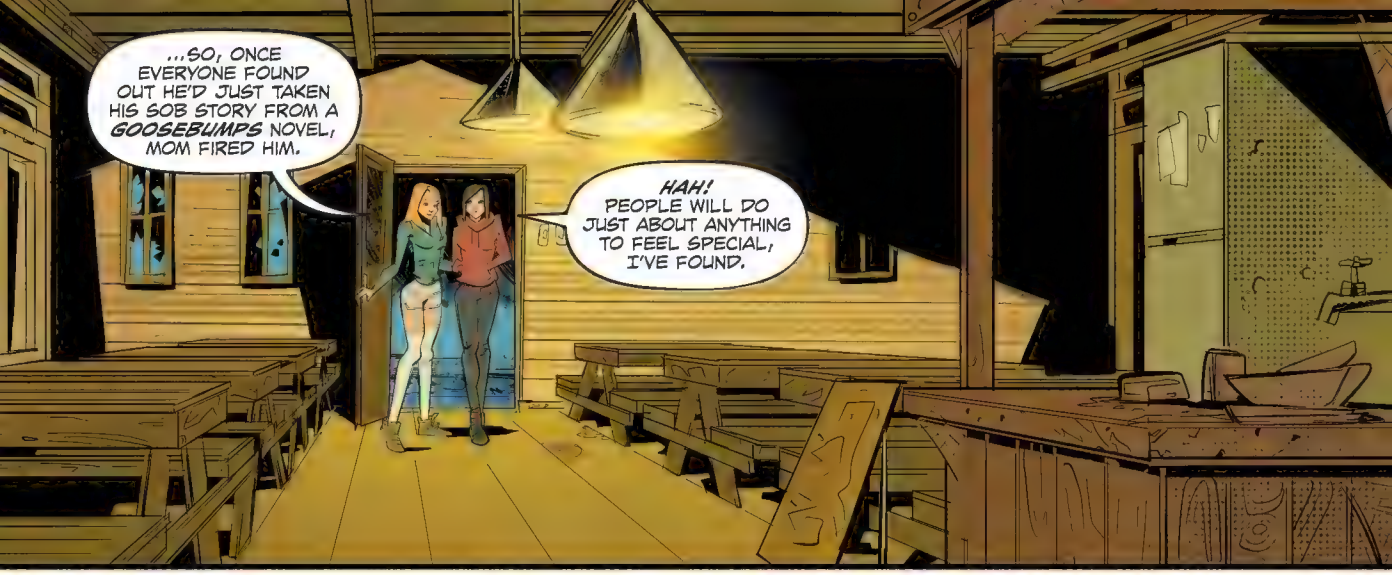
WELCOME.
I AM SO HAPPY YOU'RE JOINING US.
TRULY.
UH... SURE.
THANKS.
YOU'RE GONNA DO A GREAT JOB!
WELCOME TO CAMP INDIGO RIVER
EST. 2016
A SELF-ACTUALIZING OUTDOOR LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR KIDS AND TWEENS WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY VIOLENT CRIME AND SUPERNATURAL EXPERIENCES
While so many experiences for kids and tweens affected by violence and the supernatural seek to provide therapeutic care, here at Camp Indigo River we seek to empower these youngsters with the training they need to defend themselves from the threats they fear.
Your youngster will work with actual adult survivors of preternatural violence to feel empowered in their own planning for the future. College won't teach them to aim for the head, but we will.
CAMP is here to help!
Calmly assess your threat
Aim for the head
Mask the supernatural presence
Prepare for next time
-Dominique Peacetree, lead counselor
WOW, THAT'S...
...A LOT.

THIS MUST BE ME...
HEY.
OH NO OH NO OH NO OH NO...
NICE TO MEET YOU... CASSIE, RIGHT? I BROUGHT YOU SOME BURGERS.
THEY'RE KINDA HOCKEY PUCKS BUT THEY'RE FOOD.
C-COOL, THANKS, COOL, UH... THANKS.
COOL.
YOU SAID THAT.
SLICK AS FUCK.
I DID.
SO I SHOULD GO OBSERVE TRAINING...
RIGHT NOW, IF YOU CAN.
FFHIT, FFORRY!
DON'T STRESS IT, YOU DIDN'T KNOW. WE'RE PRETTY LAX AROUND HERE.
"WE SAVE OUR STRESS FOR MONSTER HUNTING."

COUNSELOR PEACETREE?!
YES, KYLER?
WHY DON'T WE GET TO USE THE PAINTBALL GUNS?! I WANNA SHOOT STUFF!
FUTURE FRUSTRATED MALES OF AMERICA, CHARMING.
GREAT QUESTION! MANY OF OUR BIGGEST THREATS DON'T RESPOND TO PROJECTILES...
...SO IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE'RE TRAINED IN THE USE OF MELEE AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, IMPROVISED WEAPONRY.
OUR NEW FRIEND, COUNSELOR HACK, KNOWS ALL ABOUT THAT, RIGHT?
SHUV!
UH-- YEAH! SO--
HERE'S THE THING, A BAT NEVER RUNS OUTTA AMMO. AND THERE ISN'T A SHARP SIDE TO WORRY ABOUT.
MOST ANYTHING YOU CAN KILL WITH A GUN OR A SWORD, YOU CAN KILL WITH A BAT--
RRRRRRRRR...

HEY!
GRAH!
HURR!
RRRAUUUGH!
EEEEE!
EEEEEEEAT...
THWAK
WHO'S NEXT, FUCKOS?!
ERR, CASSIE...
OUR COUNSELORS PROVIDE A FUN, SAFE, LIVE-ACTION EXPERIENCE.
WHAT--?!
OH.
WE "AMBUSH" EACH OTHER IN COSTUMES TO USE ROLE-PLAYING AS A MEANS OF TESTING REFLEXES.
YOU JUST BRAINED ONE OF MY COUNSELORS.


YOU PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE--
PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE EXPLAINED THAT TO ME RIGHT AWAY, HUH?
IT SEEMS SO.
HEY--
--CASSIE, LIKE, JUST GOT HERE. WHY DON'T YOU FINISH TEACHING YOUR CLASS AND WE'LL GET HER SOME FOOD THAT ISN'T COLD HOCKEY-PUCK BURGERS, OKAY?
SOUNDS LIKE A WISE IDEA.
HEY, MAN, YOU OKAY?
YEAH.
MAN. TONY HAD SUCH NICE TEETH, TOO.
UUGHHH...
HEY.
I DON'T KNOW SHIT ABOUT BASEBALL SO I CAN'T MAKE ANY JOKES AS TO YOUR PROWESS WITH THAT THING? BUT MOM'S PISSED AND WE SHOULD LEAVE.
UH, YEAH, LET'S.


...SO, ONCE EVERYONE FOUND OUT HE'D JUST TAKEN HIS SOB STORY FROM A GOOSEBUMPS NOVEL, MOM FIRED HIM.
HAH! PEOPLE WILL DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING TO FEEL SPECIAL, I'VE FOUND.

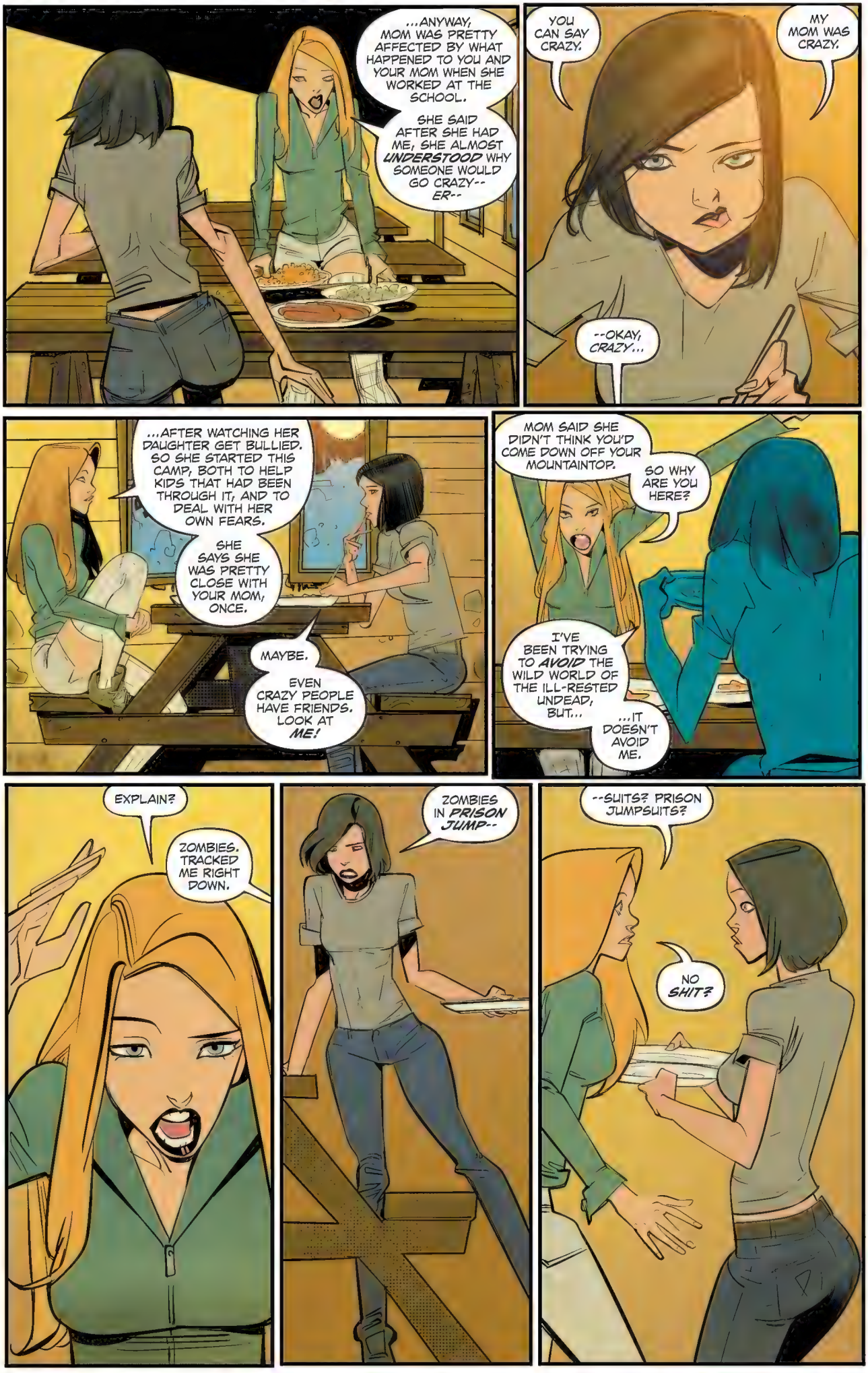
YOU SEEM PRETTY SPECIAL WITHOUT TRYING, THOUGH.
THAT'S SO COOL.
UH,, HEH...

LISTEN, UM--
LAURIE.
--LAURIE. NO OFFENSE, BUT I NEED TO GET INVOLVED WITH A NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD THIS SUMMER LIKE I NEED TO CHUG A COFFEE CUP FULL OF OVEN CLEANER.

HEH, COOL. HEATHERS.
I LOVE THAT MOVIE.

OH GODDAMMIT.
HEY. DON'T STRESS. IT'S COOL.

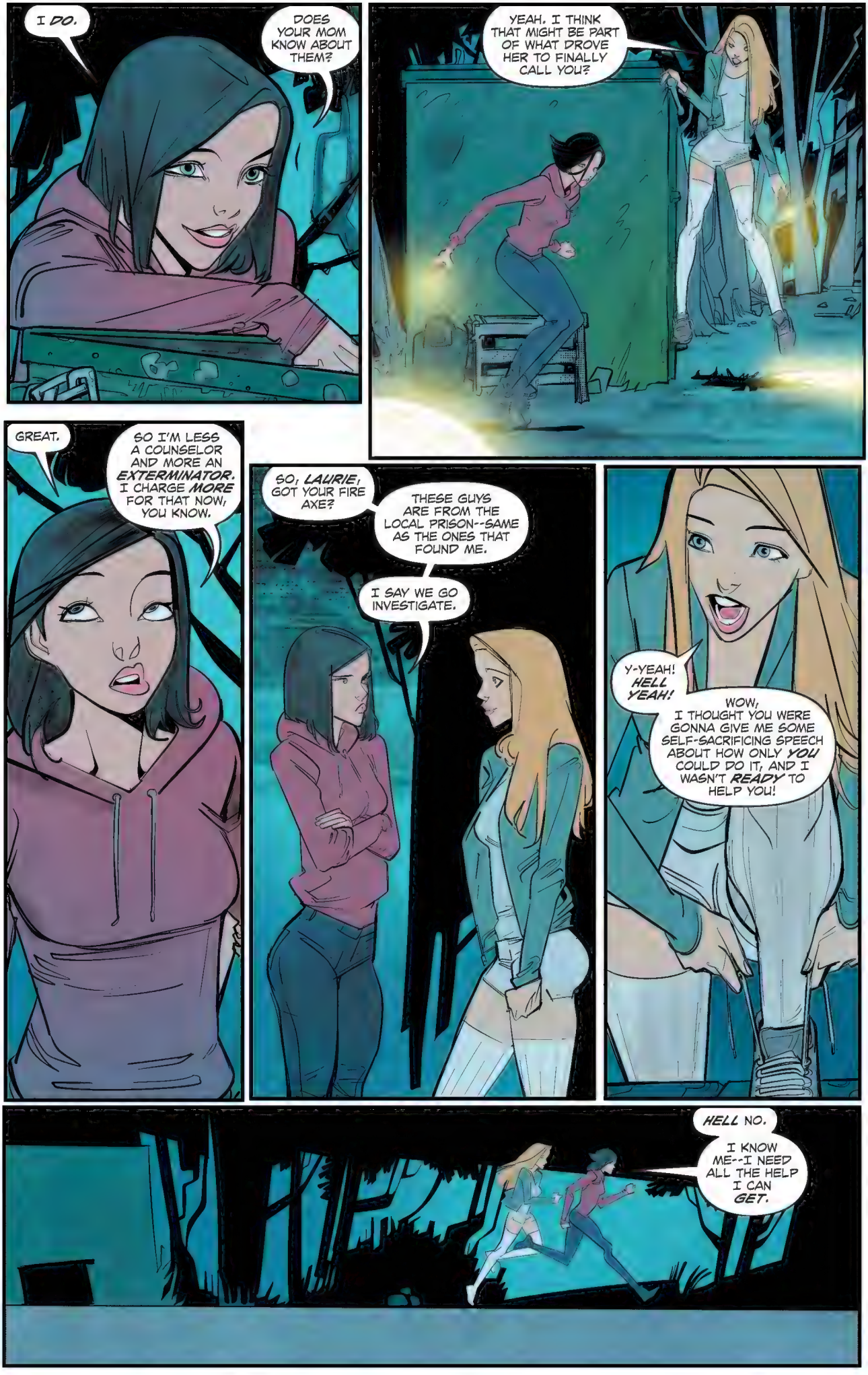
I CAN'T HELP BUT LIKE YOU, BUT I'LL KEEP IT ON LOCKDOWN.


...ANYWAY, MOM WAS PRETTY AFFECTED BY WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AND YOUR MOM WHEN SHE WORKED AT THE SCHOOL.
SHE SAID AFTER SHE HAD ME, SHE ALMOST UNDERSTOOD WHY SOMEONE WOULD GO CRAZY-- ER--
YOU CAN SAY CRAZY.
MY MOM WAS CRAZY.
--OKAY, CRAZY...
...AFTER WATCHING HER DAUGHTER GET BULLIED. SO SHE STARTED THIS CAMP, BOTH TO HELP KIDS THAT HAD BEEN THROUGH IT, AND TO DEAL WITH HER OWN FEARS.
SHE SAYS SHE WAS PRETTY CLOSE WITH YOUR MOM, ONCE.
MAYBE.
EVEN CRAZY PEOPLE HAVE FRIENDS. LOOK AT ME!
MOM SAID SHE DIDN'T THINK YOU'D COME DOWN OFF YOUR MOUNTAINTOP.
SO WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO AVOID THE WILD WORLD OF THE ILL-RESTED UNDEAD, BUT...
...IT DOESN'T AVOID ME.
EXPLAIN?
ZOMBIES. TRACKED ME RIGHT DOWN.
ZOMBIES IN PRISON JUMP--
--SUITS? PRISON JUMPSUITS?
NO SHIT?

OH SHIT.
WHEN DID THESE GUYS ARRIVE?
LAST WEEKEND.
SOME OF THE GENTLER KIDS THOUGHT THEY WERE COUNSELORS DRESSED UP AND JUST RAN FROM THEM, CAME AND GOT ME. TOOK ME A MINUTE, BUT I REALIZED THEY WERE THE REAL DEAL.

YOU TOOK THESE GUYS OUT?
ON YOUR OWN?

YEAH. FIRE AXE, RIGHT AT THE NECK.
YOU LIKE?


I DO.
DOES YOUR MOM KNOW ABOUT THEM?
YEAH. I THINK THAT MIGHT BE PART OF WHAT DROVE HER TO FINALLY CALL YOU?
GREAT.
SO I'M LESS A COUNSELOR AND MORE AN EXTERMINATOR. I CHARGE MORE FOR THAT NOW, YOU KNOW.
SO, LAURIE, GOT YOUR FIRE AXE?
THESE GUYS ARE FROM THE LOCAL PRISON--SAME AS THE ONES THAT FOUND ME.
I SAY WE GO INVESTIGATE.
Y-YEAH! HELL YEAH!
WOW, I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA GIVE ME SOME SELF-SACRIFICING SPEECH ABOUT HOW ONLY YOU COULD DO IT, AND I WASN'T READY TO HELP YOU!
HELL NO.
I KNOW ME--I NEED ALL THE HELP I CAN GET.

SO, DO WE JUST STROLL ACROSS THE FIELD?
NAH.
WE'RE GOING TO WANNA TRY TO GET IN SOMEWHERE THAT'S NOT THE MAIN PRISON BUILDING, LIKE MEDICAL. LESS SECURITY.
NOW THAT WE'RE CLOSER TO THE SOURCE OF THESE THINGS, WE'RE GOING TO WANT TO--
RRRRR...
THAT THING IS *RIGHT FUCKING BEHIND ME*, ISN'T IT?
MMHMM...

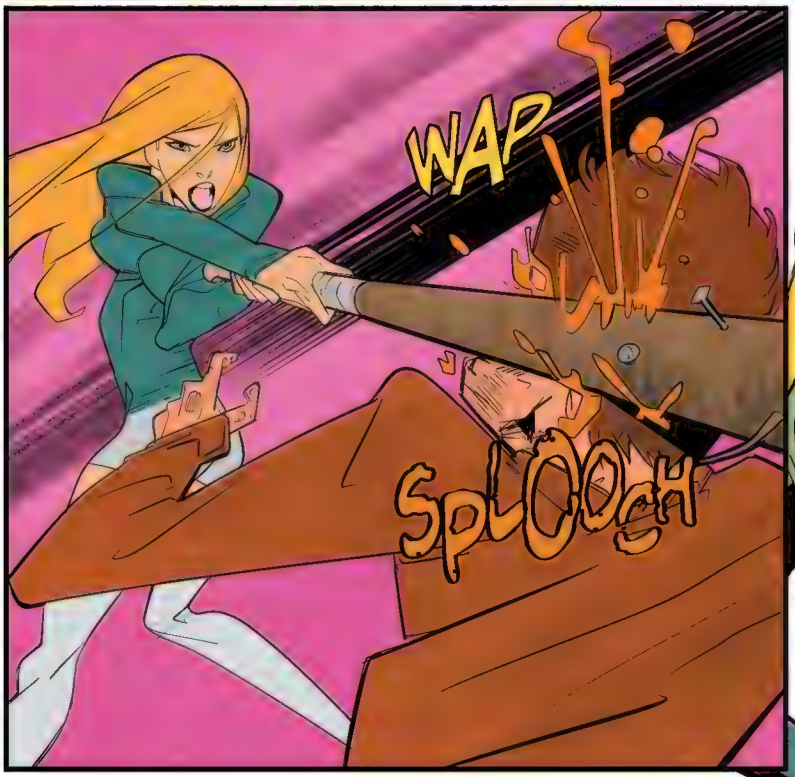
RRRAAAAA--
THUNK
SSSH
KRRAK
CASSIE!
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN HER THE WHOLE SELF-SACRIFICING SPEECH, HONESTLY.

TAKE THIS.
WE'RE GONNA SPLIT UP--
UM?!
LISTEN!
--AND THEN JOIN BACK UP. THEY'LL SPLIT TO FOLLOW US AND HALF OF 'EM WILL GET DISTRACTED AND WANDER OFF. SERIOUSLY, THEIR BRAINS ARE MOSTLY SOUP AT THIS POINT.
YOU'RE THE EXTERMINATOR, I GUESS.
DAMN RIGHT I AM.
FWAK

WE PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE WAITED TO DO THIS.
NAH.
IF THEIR NUMBERS WERE GOING TO FUCKTUPLE LIKE THIS, WAITING IS THE LAST THING WE WANTED TO DO.

SWITCH WITH ME?
I NEED THE AXE TO GET IN.

WOW, ISN'T THIS, LIKE, THE BAT?
EYES BEHIND YOU!
RATTLE
KRK
CHNK


WAP
SPLOOGH

FEELS GOOD, MAN.

RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE
WHAT IN THE WORLD--
HEY.
LEMME IN.
BY ALL MEANS!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, MISS HACK.
YEAH, OKAY.
BY NOW I'M NOT SURPRISED WHEN PEOPLE HAVE HEARD OF ME. WHO ARE YOU?
AND IF THOSE ARE YOUR PETS OUT THERE, CAN YOU CLEAN UP AFTER THEM?

I'M DR. EZEKIEL CHASE. AND THEY ARE.
WALK WITH ME?
DON'T WORRY, BY THE BY, THEY DONATED THEIR BODIES TO SCIENCE, NOBLE FELLOWS.
I WOULDN'T DARE DENY ANYONE THEIR FINAL WISHES.
I DON'T... I DON'T CARE.
LOOK, THERE ARE KIDS IN THESE WOODS. YOUR LITTLE EXPERIMENTS ARE ENDANGERING THEM, SO STOP IT.
WELL, THEY HAVE YOU AND YOUR LADY FRIEND TO LOOK AFTER THEM.
THEY'RE OUTWITTED EASILY ENOUGH.
WE CAN'T GO PUTTING KIDS IN DANGER.
RIGHT. I'M--

I'M HONESTLY PAST THE POINT IN MY LIFE WHERE I'M GOING TO HAVE MORAL OBJECTIONS TO ANYONE RAISING THE DEAD ANYMORE.
IT'S AN EXHAUSTING DEBATE AND IT EXHAUSTS ME.
BUT YOU HAVE TO *CONTAIN* THESE THINGS! THERE'S A WHOLE CAMP OF LITTLE KIDS WHO ARE GONNA GET PICKED OFF BY SOME DEAD CONVICT WHEN THEY'RE JUST TRYING TO DIG A *POOPIE HOLE* IN THE WOODS!
THAT'S NOT RIGHT!
MISS HACK, YOU SEEM TO BE DOING A FINE JOB OF EXTERMINATING THESE UNDEAD AS THEY NEED TO BE DEALT WITH.
I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO YOU CONTINUING YOUR WORK.
SO THAT'S IT? YOU MADE A MESS WITH YOUR WEIRDO SCIENCE AND YOU WANT LAURIE AND I TO CLEAN IT UP?
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY THAT I LET THE MESS GET AWAY FROM ME.
I'M SURE I CAN HELP?

N-NO. I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP. BUT THAT'S... SUPER IRRESPONSIBLE.
WHAT IF WE HADN'T BEEN HERE?
WELL, MY DEAR, IN *THAT* CASE, WE WOULDN'T HAVE THE PROBLEM TO *BEGIN* WITH.
I WAS ONLY *TOYING* WITH THIS WHOLE HUMAN REANIMATION GIG HOPING TO RUN INTO YOU. AFTER ALL, ONLY *YOU* WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE WHAT IT IS I'M DOING HERE!
I KNOW YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T *NEED* MY ASSISTANCE.
BUT I JUST COULDN'T *HELP* MYSELF.

YOUR FRIEND *VLAD* WAS ALWAYS SUCH A *WONDERFUL* HELP TO YOU!
HURRRRRRRK!
I'M SPEECHLESS.
VLAD.

...CASSIE?
HELLO, CASSIE.
I AM BACK!
NNNNO!
MISS HACK!
KASSH

HUGS!
THWOK
YOU FUCKING MONSTER!
I'LL PULL HIS SKIN RIGHT OFF OF YOU--
YOU SONUVABITCH, I'LL RIP YOU APART--
=OOOF= NO HUGGING?
MISS HACK--
YOU'RE A MADMAN.
THAT'S A FUNNY WAY OF SAYING THANK YOU.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO VLAD?!

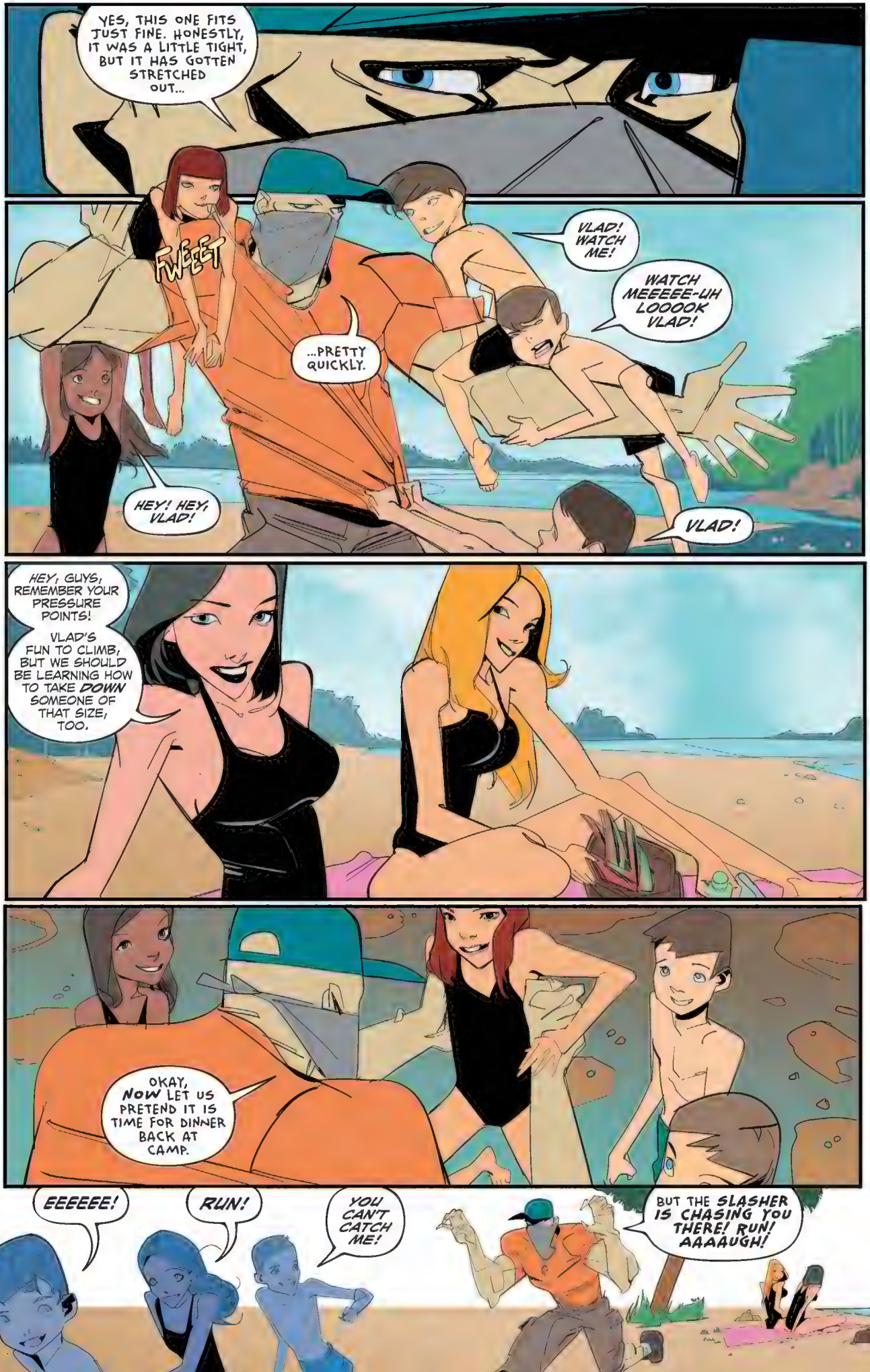
I BROUGHT HIM BACK FOR YOU.
THIS ISN'T VLAD. THIS IS SOME... GOLEM--
NO, CASSIE.
IT'S ME.
...BUDDY?
I MISSED YOU.
:ERRP: VLAD. HOLD ON, I--
I DON'T--

VLAD? LAURIE? YOU GUYS GO WAIT OUTSIDE AND GET ACQUAINTED, OKAY?
HELLO, LAURIE.
HEY, UH... VLAD.
THIS IS A DARK WAY TO TRY AND GET UNDER MY SKIN, DUDE.
WHAT DID I EVER DO TO YOU?
DO TO ME?
MISS HACK, YOU'RE SOMETHING OF A PRODIGY.
FOR THOSE OF US INVOLVED IN THE FIELD OF LIFE SCIENCES, SLASHERS ARE A RATHER UNIQUE CONUNDRUM.
THEY SEEM TO BE BEYOND CONVENTIONAL EXPLANATIONS WHICH--AS A SCIENTIST--
I SIMPLY CAN'T ABIDE.

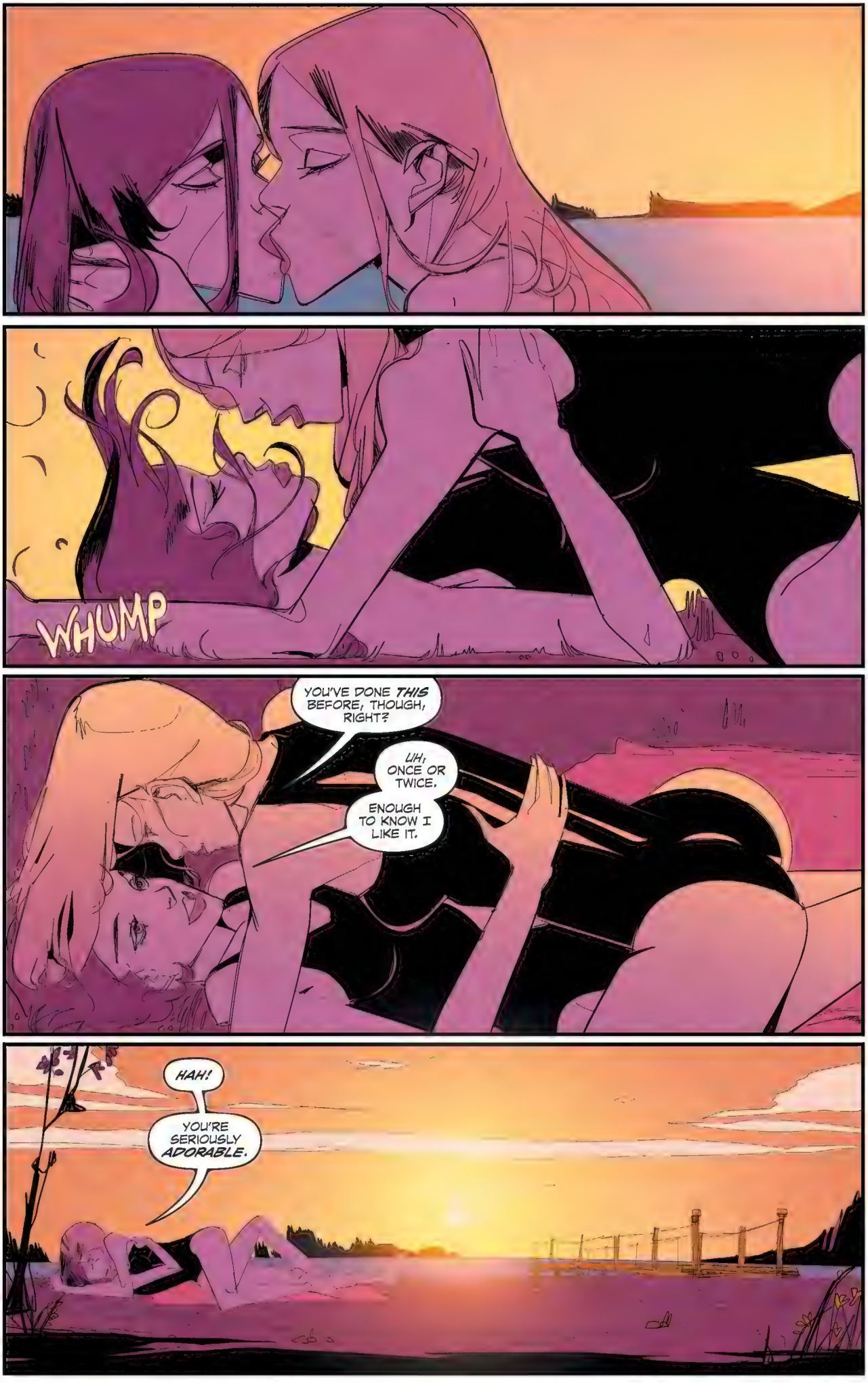
NO ONE, AND I MEAN NO ONE KNOWS MORE ABOUT THEM THAN YOU.
UH, WELL, I'VE GOT DICK-ALL SCIENCE IN MY METHOD, SO GOOD LUCK GETTING FUNDING FOR THAT RESEARCH.
OH, MISS HACK.
WE'RE CROWDFUNDED.
HURK!
LISTEN HERE.
I'M GONNA LEAVE, WITH MY FRIENDS, AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
IF I SEE ANY MORE ZOMBIES AROUND MY CAMP, THEY'RE DOUBLE-DEAD. I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH IT TOOK TO GET THEM BACK ON THEIR FEET.
KEEP THEM AWAY FROM ME.
MISS HACK. YOU'VE DESTROYED MY LAB, HERE.
IF YOU'RE NOT GRATEFUL FOR MY RESEARCH...

...I'LL FIND SOMEONE WHO IS.
I'M REALLY CONFUSED. I THOUGHT WE WERE COMING HERE TO TAKE OUT ZOMBIES.
SO DID I.
VLAD, I... I'M SORRY I FREAKED OUT AND JUMPED AT YOU, BUDDY.
NOT THE FIRST TIME.
I FORGIVE YOU.
I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD BE HERE, EITHER.
NORMAL... FOR ME.
WELL, HOW DO YOU FEEL?
WHAT ABOUT ALL...
ER, THAT'S BEEN LIKE THAT.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A BIG WEIRDO.
JUST LIKE ME.

AND YOU SAY HE'S GOOD WITH KIDS?
BETTER THAN I AM, HONESTLY.
AND HE'S GREAT WITH KNIVES!
I AM GOOD WITH CHILDREN AND KNIVES.
IF CASSIE VOUCHES FOR YOU, I TRUST YOU. SHE'S A GOOD EGG.
YOU PROMISE I WON'T REGRET IT?
LADY, IF I COULD PROMISE PEOPLE NO REGRETS, I'D BE LIVING A VERY DIFFERENT LIFE.
BYE, MOM!
I'LL FIND HIM A COUNSELOR T-SHIRT THAT FITS!


YES, THIS ONE FITS JUST FINE. HONESTLY, IT WAS A LITTLE TIGHT, BUT IT HAS GOTTEN STRETCHED OUT...
FWEET
VLAD! WATCH ME!
WATCH MEEEEE-UH LOOOOK VLAD!
...PRETTY QUICKLY.
HEY! HEY, VLAD!
VLAD!
HEY, GUYS, REMEMBER YOUR PRESSURE POINTS!
VLAD'S FUN TO CLIMB, BUT WE SHOULD BE LEARNING HOW TO TAKE DOWN SOMEONE OF THAT SIZE, TOO.
OKAY, NOW LET US PRETEND IT IS TIME FOR DINNER BACK AT CAMP.
EEEEEE!
RUN!
YOU CAN'T CATCH ME!
BUT THE SLASHER IS CHASING YOU THERE! RUN! AAAAUGH!

NOT A BAD DAY, ALL IN ALL.
NOPE. HE REALLY IS GREAT WITH THE KIDS.
ISN'T HE?
LET'S CELEBRATE. SHALL WE?
OH! UHH. I DON'T-- I MEAN. I HAVEN'T, EVER.
YOU'VE NEVER? THAT'S... SO CUTE.
HAVE YOU EVER HAD A SHOTGUN?
I MEAN, YEAH? BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THE MOVIES, HONESTLY. WHEN FIGHTING ZOMBIES, I PREFER MY BAT--
SHK
NO, SILLY.


WHUMP
YOU'VE DONE *THIS* BEFORE, THOUGH, RIGHT?
UH, ONCE OR TWICE.
ENOUGH TO KNOW I LIKE IT.
HAH!
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY *ADORABLE.*

MMMPH.
YOU DIDN'T COME TO SING-A-LONG AND S'MORES.
I WAS WORRIED.
JESUS, WHAT TIME IS IT?
HEY, VLAD.
VERY LATE. ALMOST MORNING.
I WAS AFRAID YOU HAD GONE AFTER DR. CHASE.
NO, NO...
I MEANT WHAT I SAID. I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN.
BUT THE PRISON IS LITERALLY A STONE'S THROW AWAY.
I GUESS I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

DON'T YOU?
C'MON, VLAD, SERIOUSLY.
HE'S SENDING ZOMBIES OUT INTO THE WILD.
WHO ELSE IS GOING TO TAKE HIM OUT?
WELL, CASSIE, I HAVE BEEN THINKING.
YOU HAVE THROWN YOURSELF INTO WORKING WITH THESE KIDS. THEY LOVE YOU.
PERHAPS...
GOOD CALL. WE TRAIN THE KIDS IN REAL TIME, GET THEM TO GO AFTER THE ZOMBIES WHILE WE TAKE OUT DR. CHASE!
THAT'S BRILLIANT!
THE KIDS WILL JUST THINK IT'S PART OF TRAINING, THEY WON'T KNOW, BUT THEY'LL BE LEARNING LIKE DOMINIQUE WANTS THEM TO!
CASSIE--

I'M OBVIOUSLY GOING TO TELL YOUR MOM, LAURIE, DON'T FREAK OUT, I MEAN, THAT'S A LIABILITY ISSUE--
CASSIE.
OH. THAT IS GOOD. I NEVER YELL AT HER LIKE THAT.
I THINK WHAT VLAD IS SAYING IS THAT THIS ISN'T YOUR JOB.
LET THE CRAZY ZOMBIE DOCTOR AT THE PRISON DO HIS OWN THING. AND YOU DO YOURS.
YOU'RE NOT THE CREEPY SHIT POLICE.
LAURIE, YOU HAVE...
...NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
APPARENTLY HE FORGOT ALL THE IMPORTANT STUFF, TOO.
LET HER GO THINK.
WANNA GO BACK AND START MAKING BREAKFAST?
TODAY IS FRENCH TOAST STICKS.
SO, YES.

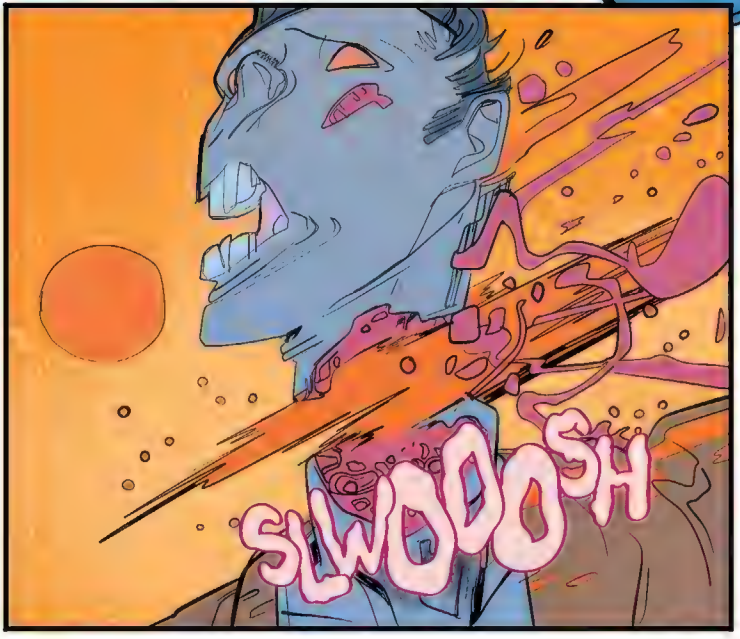
THIS SEEMS REALLY DUMB, RIGHT?
GIRL GETS MAD AT FRIEND AND... GIRL... FRIEND?
STORMS OFF INTO ZOMBIE-FILLED WOODS, ALONE.
A RECIPE FOR A BAD TIME.
SHE MUST BE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.
OH, SHE IS.
SHE'S GOT SOME STEAM TO BLOW OFF.
GROOOSH

LINE UP, ASSHOLES.
I HAVE GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS.

THE *GOOD* NEWS IS THAT SOME OF YOU GET TO KEEP YOUR HEADS.

SWACK
I NEED A *FEW* OF THEM TO MAKE A POINT TO MY NEW BOSS.

HERE'S THE *BAD* NEWS:


SLWOOSH

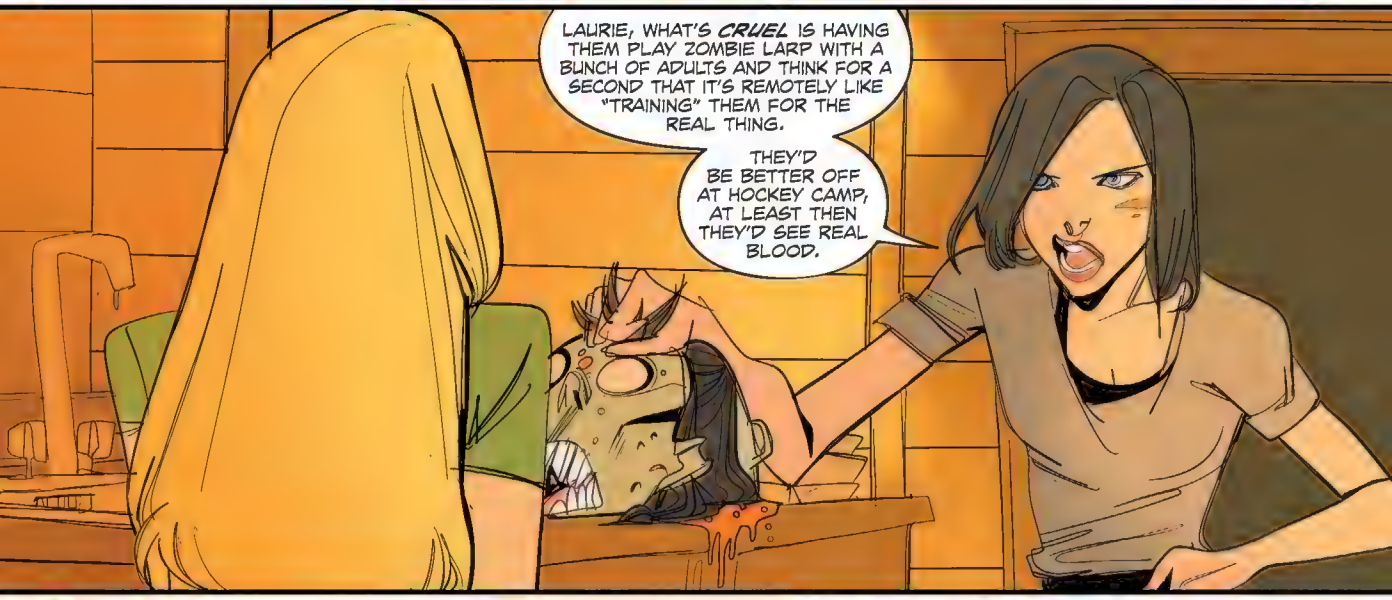
THAT MEANS I'M COMIN' FOR THE REST OF YOUR NECKS.

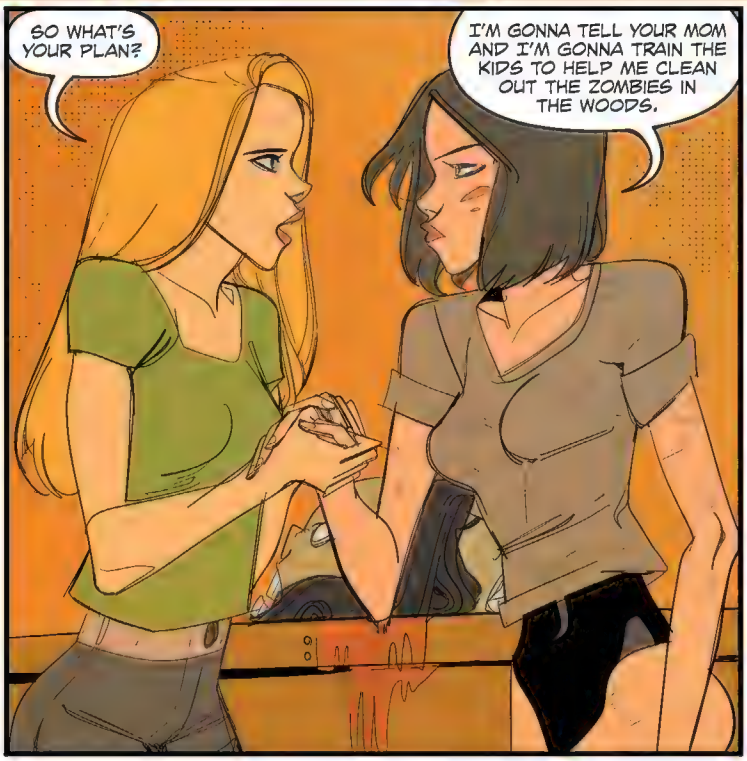
HACK
SLASH
SPLUT!
TRY TO LOOK NICE, OKAY?
CAMP INDIGO RIVER
I WORK HERE.

IT SMELLS LIKE WHEN MY DAD HIT A DEER!
AND KINDA LIKE COUNSELOR LAURIE'S SPECIAL CIGARETTES, TOO!
SHH, SHH.
CASSIE, WAIT.
WHAT?
I SAVED YOU SOME FRENCH TOAST STICKS.
OOOOKAAAY...
NO, OKAY, THAT WAS DUMB, YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT SERIOUSLY.

FIRST OF ALL, WHATEVER YOU DECIDE TO DO, YOU CAN'T JUST WALK THROUGH THE MESS HALL COVERED IN ZOMBIE GORE.
BECAUSE....?

BECAUSE, CASSIE! THAT'S DISGUSTING, AND WEIRD.
AND... CRUEL? IT'S CRUEL TO THESE KIDS.


LAURIE, WHAT'S *CRUEL* IS HAVING THEM PLAY ZOMBIE LARP WITH A BUNCH OF ADULTS AND THINK FOR A SECOND THAT IT'S REMOTELY LIKE "TRAINING" THEM FOR THE REAL THING.
THEY'D BE BETTER OFF AT HOCKEY CAMP, AT LEAST THEN THEY'D SEE REAL BLOOD.

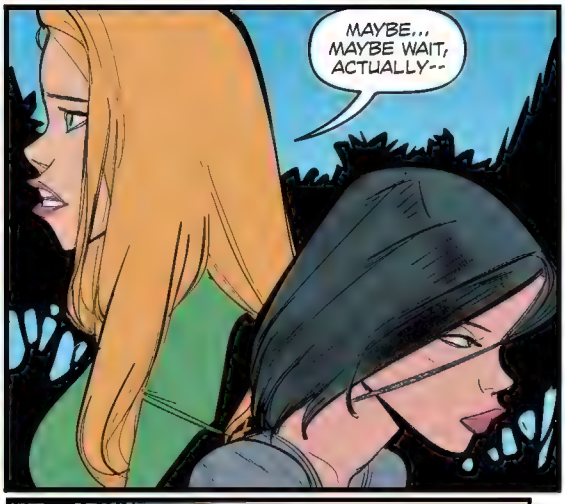

SO WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?
I'M GONNA TELL YOUR MOM AND I'M GONNA TRAIN THE KIDS TO HELP ME CLEAN OUT THE ZOMBIES IN THE WOODS.

CASSIE-- *DON'T!*

MOM ISN'T *LIKE* YOU.
SHE WON'T UNDERSTAND.

SHE KNEW MY MOM, LAURIE. AND EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TO HER.
ZOMBIES AREN'T GONNA RUIN HER DAY. SHE'LL PROBABLY LOVE THAT THERE'S SOMETHING TO USE FOR SLASHER-SLAYING TRAINING.

I WANT YOU TO TOUCH ME A WHOLE BUNCH AFTER LAST NIGHT, BUT YOU HAVE TO SHOWER FIRST.
THAT'S FAIR.
CAN I GO SEE YOUR MOM COVERED IN GORE? I HEAR HER IN HER OFFICE RIGHT NOW.


MAYBE... MAYBE WAIT, ACTUALLY--

GO SHOWER NOW! I'LL GO WITH YOU, C'MON, CASSIE, *PLEASE*--

CASSIE HACK, AS I LIVE AND BREATHE! C'MON IN, I WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU!
DO YOU KNOW DR. CHASE?
I SAID SOMETHING EARLIER ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED WITH NINETEEN-YEAR-OLDS BEING A BAD IDEA, RIGHT?
I... CAN EXPLAIN.
RIGHT NOW, THERE AREN'T ENOUGH SHOWERS IN THE WORLD FOR HOW DIRTY I FEEL.

HELP YOURSELF! FRENCH TOAST STICKS.
DELIGHTFUL.
AND THEN THERE'S THESE ASSHOLES.
WELL, YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO. A CHILD SLASHER IS HIGHLY UNHEARD OF--
WHAM
THIS IS WHERE WE LEFT OFF.
WHAT A FUCKIN' DAY.
HANG ON, KIDS, I PROMISE THINGS GET REALLY GORY, REAL SOON.
SLAM
PLOOP
YOU WERE SAYING?

CASSIE--
DON'T.
DON'T EVEN MAKE ME SAY DON'T-- IT'S LIKE--WHAT DID YOU THINK I WAS GONNA SAY?
STOP--

TELL ME YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOUR MOM IS DELIBERATELY TALKING TO DR. CHASE AND I'LL BELIEVE YOU.

EHH...

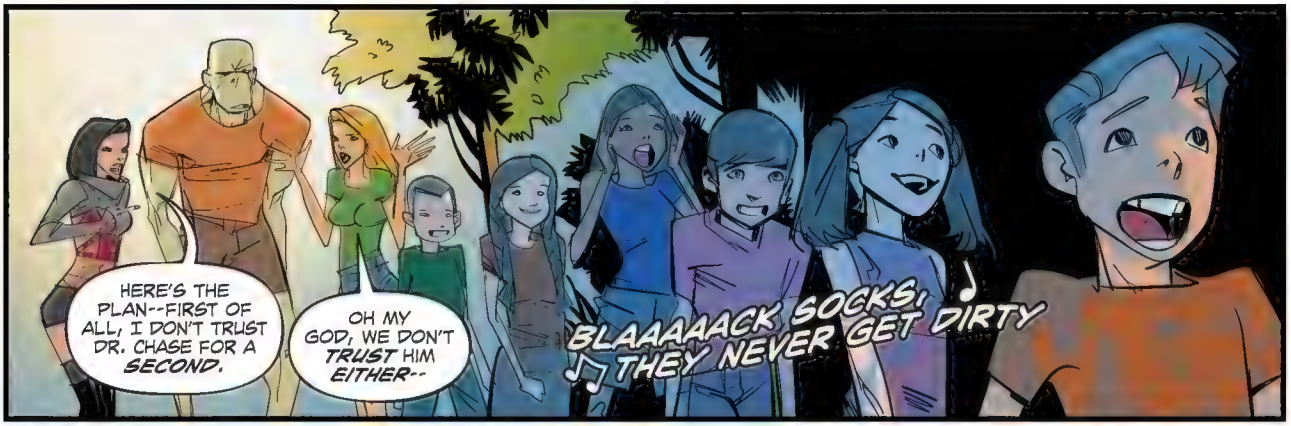
THOUGHT SO.
IT'S--

FLOP
--COMPLICATED.

GET OUT, LAURIE. I'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
IS THAT...
DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL ZOMBIE-HUNTING OUTFIT? IT'S... ACTUALLY *CUTE*.
NO. IT'S A *SLASHER*-HUNTING OUTFIT, AND I HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN TO WEAR IT YET, SO--
WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE? I *TOLD* YOU I DIDN'T HAVE TIME FOR SOME NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD.
YOU'RE AN *ASSHOLE*, CASSIE.
NOTED.
CASSIE?

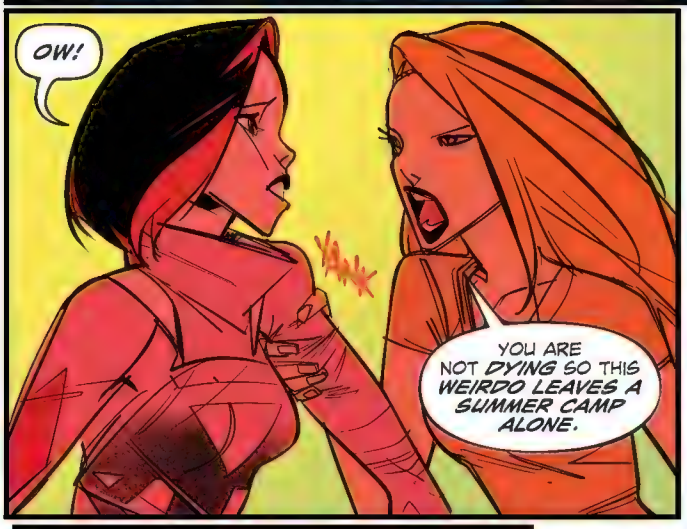
WHAT IS THIS?
IT IS TIME FOR SING-A-LONG AND LEARNING TO COVER OUR TRACKS.
I QUIT CAMP COUNSELING.
I'M BACK TO HUNTING SHIT THAT ESCAPES FROM BAD HORROR MOVIES.
PLEASE DON'T.
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING, CASSIE.
OKAY, SURE, VALID. HERE'S WHAT I KNOW:
DR. CHASE IS MAKING ZOMBIES THAT KEEP WALKING UP NEAR THIS CAMP.
AFTER TELLING HIM TO STOP, I FIND HIM MEETING WITH DOMINIQUE.
AND HER DAUGHTER, WHO I'VE BEEN VERY CLOSE WITH, KNEW AND DIDN'T TELL ME?
AND WHEN HE BRINGS SOMEONE BACK--
--YOU.

YOU CAN LEAVE.
I'M WAITING FOR MY FRIEND VLAD, ACTUALLY. HE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU FOR SOME REASON.
I CAN'T TRUST EITHER OF YOU.
YOU'RE BOTH ALL FULL OF DR. CHASE'S POISON, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
I LIKE THAT I AM RETURNED.
YEAH, BUT YOU DIED.
AFTER YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T.
YOU ARE BEING SUSPICIOUS.
AND BLOWING YOUR TOP OFF.
NOT WHAT THAT MEANS, BUDDY.
YOU DO NOT EVEN KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING AND YOU ARE REACTING MEAN AND BAD.
COME TO SING-ALONG. WE WILL TALK THERE.
WHATEVER, FINE.
ADMITTEDLY, IN RETROSPECT I REALLY SHOWED MY ASS THERE.
NOT LIKE I DID IN THE OLD DAYS, EITHER--THANKS NEW OUTFIT!


HERE'S THE PLAN--FIRST OF ALL, I DON'T TRUST DR. CHASE FOR A SECOND.
OH MY GOD, WE DON'T TRUST HIM EITHER--
♪ BLAAAAACK SOCKS, THEY NEVER GET DIRTY ♪

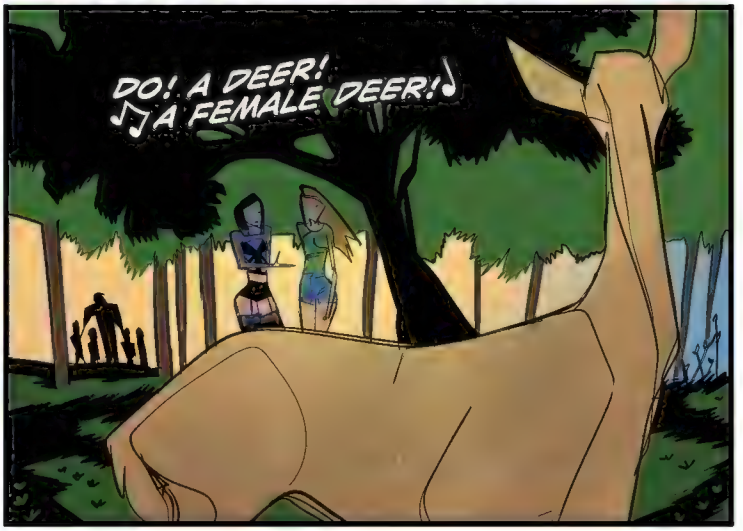
NO, HE DID NOT ASK BEFORE HE BROUGHT ME BACK FROM DEAD.
IS A BAD MAN.
WHICH MEANS HE'LL JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO HACK UP A DEAD POTENTIAL SLASHER, WHICH MIGHT BE ME, SO OUR PLAN IS GETTING ME INSIDE HIS LAB AND FIGURING OUT WHAT THE HELL HE'S UP TO.

♪ THE LONGER YOU WEAR THEM THE BLACKER THEY GET! ♪
UH?
SLASHERS. LIKE MY MOM. LIKE I TOLD YOU?*
I MIGHT BE ONE?
KIND OF? IT'S COMPLICATED.
*EDITOR TIM'S NOTE: OH, WOW, HAHA, CHECK THE RE-CAP PAGE, KIDS!


OW!
YOU ARE NOT DYING SO THIS WEIRDO LEAVES A SUMMER CAMP ALONE.

NO--JESUS, THAT HURT.
M'NOT DYING. I HAVE A PLAN. I SAW IT ON FORENSIC FILES. FIRST WE NEED A SYRINGE AND BLOOD.

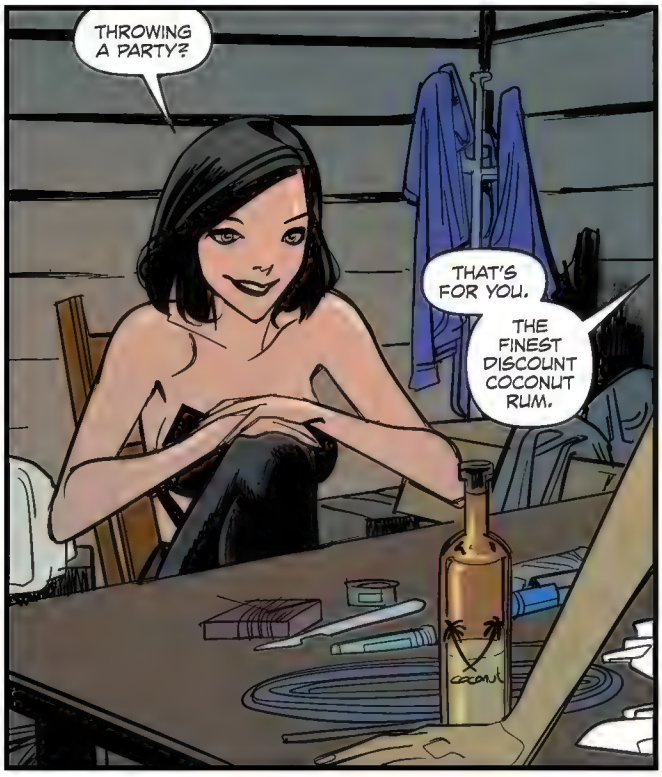
PREFERABLY NOT PEOPLE BLOOD.
BUT REAL BLOOD.
LIKE FROM A--


♪ DO! A DEER! A FEMALE DEER! ♪

♫"RE, A DROP OF GOLDEN SUUUUUN!"♫
THWIPP
NICE SHOT!
SHNK
SWEET. THANK YOU, SHARPS KIT.
JUST A LITTLE OF THIS AND I CAN GO TO BED.
YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT YET?
NO, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO HUNT.
YOU SAID BE HERE AT DAWN. I DON'T WAKE UP AT DAWN...
...BUT SOMETIMES I STAY UP THAT LATE.

♪"MI, A NAME! I CALL MYSELF!"♫
ENGLUND STATE PARK
Greywing Falls
INDIGO RIVER
Mt. Myers
OKAY, EYES ON ME.
THE PLAN IS BRING MY FAKE-DEAD ASS TO DR. CHASE AND HOPE HE JUST TRIES TO RUIN MY CORPSE.
OKAY, SO:
LAURIE, I NEED A NEEDLE AND THREAD FROM THE CRAFT CABINS, AND PLASTIC TUBING FROM... SOMEWHERE.
OH, WE'VE GOT SOME.
THE COUNSELORS USE IT FOR MAKING COSTUMES TO FAKE-HUNT THE KIDS.
PERFECT.
VLAD! MY PAL. YOU GONNA TAKE THE KIDS FOR A HIKE OUT THAT WAY? IN CASE I NEED BACKUP?
YES!
WELL, I GUESS IF YOU'RE BOTH WILLING TO HELP ME--
ENGLUND STATE PARK
Greywing Falls
INDIGO RIVER
I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE MOVING IN ON MOM'S CAMP.
THAT'S ALL.
THIS PLACE HAS BEEN OURS FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.
YOU COMING IN TO HELP IS ONE THING, BUT WE DON'T NEED DR. CHASE AND HIS "CONTROLLED FUN-DEAD" FUCKING UP THE PLACE.
"CONTROLLED FUN-DEAD," OH GOD, I HATE HIM.

♪"FA, A LONG LONG WAY TO RUNNNN!!"♪


THROWING A PARTY?
THAT'S FOR YOU.
THE FINEST DISCOUNT COCONUT RUM.

AS MUCH AS I WANT YOU IN PAIN RIGHT NOW, I FEEL LIKE YOU'LL NEED SOMETHING TO DULL THE PAIN.
AND THE HANGOVER THAT STUFF'LL GIVE YOU SEEMS LIKE PUNISHMENT ENOUGH.

♫"SO, A NEEDLE PULLING THREEEEAD!♫

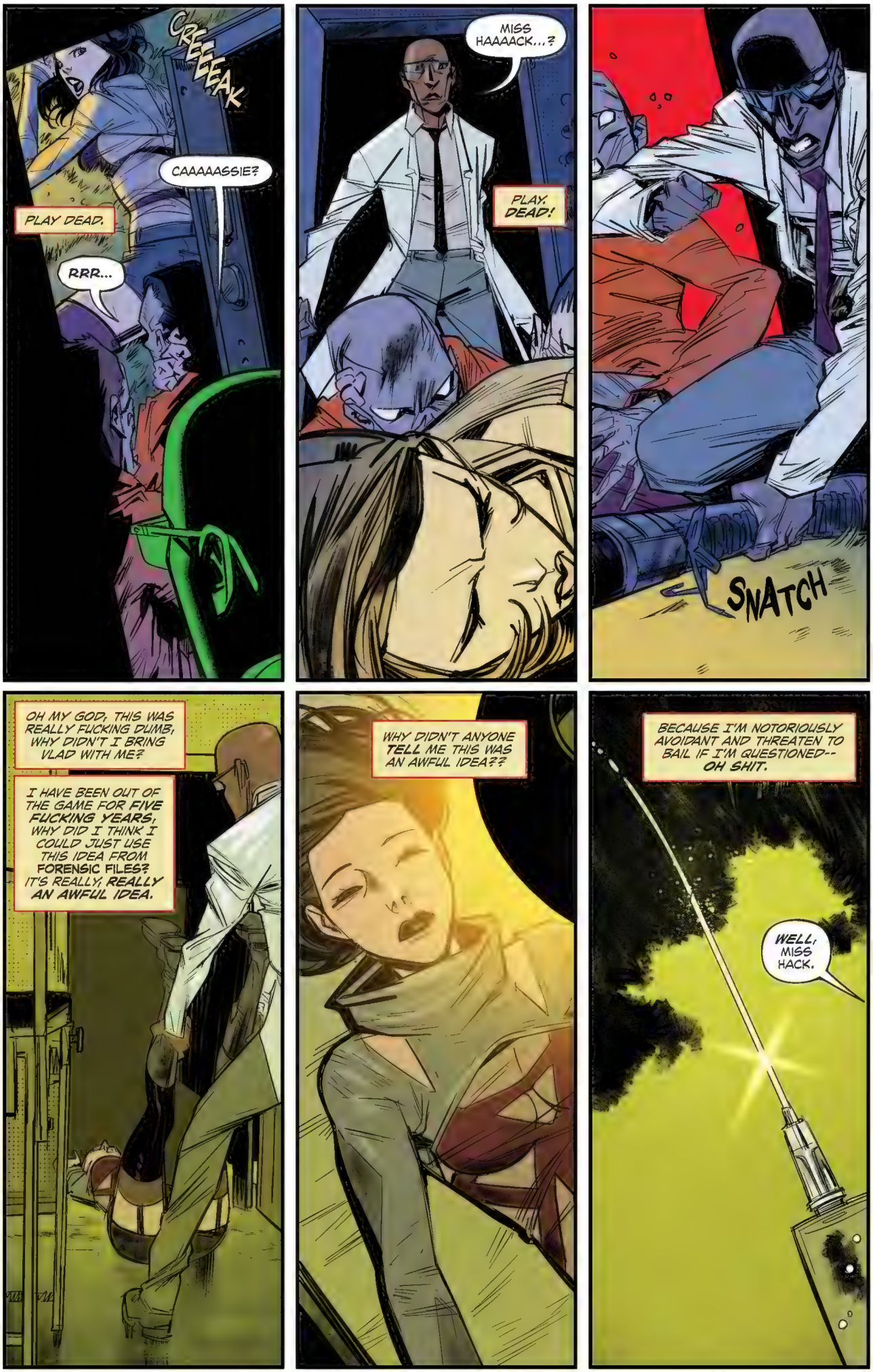
THIS IS DUMB, ANYWAY.
HE'S A DOCTOR, HE'S NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THAT A TUBE OF DEER BLOOD SHOVED UNDER YOUR SKIN IS YOUR VEIN. THIS IS TOTALLY GROSS.
I CAN LITERALLY SHOW YOU THE EPISODE OF FORENSIC FILES, LAURIE, I'M TIRED OF REPEATING MYSELF.

YEAH? OKAY, SHOW ME. LET'S GO WATCH IT RIGHT NOW.

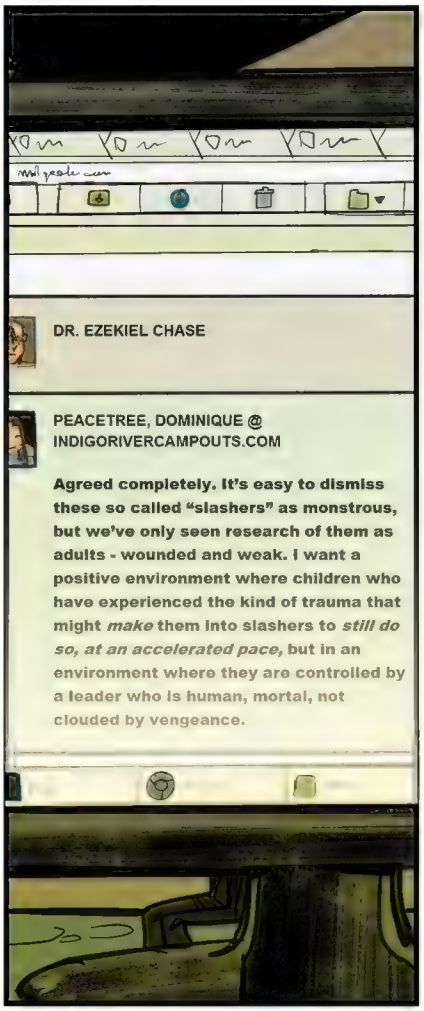
♫"LA...♪
AAAAAAHHH!!
♫"...A NOTE TO FOLLOW SO!"♫

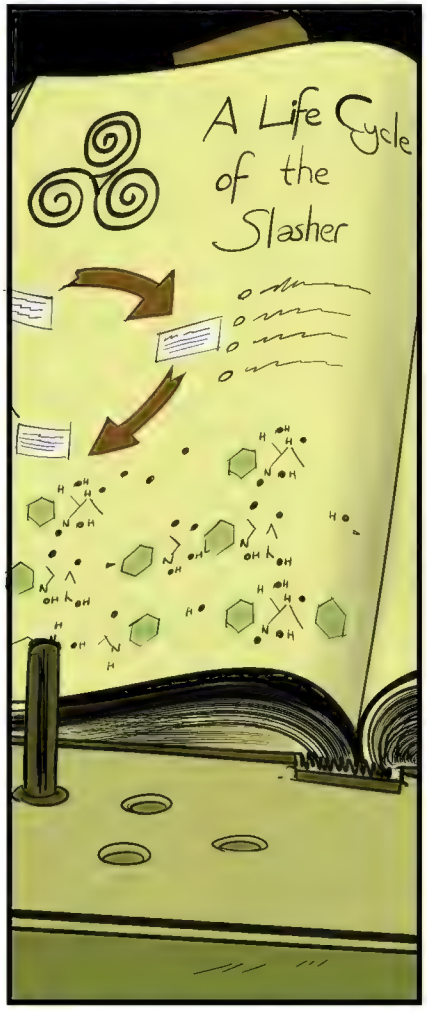
♫"TI, A DRINK WITH JAM AND BREAD!"♫
DON'T YOU JUDGE ME.
REMEMBER WHEN I ALMOST DIED A VIRGIN?
I'M MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME.
I THOUGHT YOU TWO DIDN'T GET ALONG ANYMORE.
YEAH, WELL, SOMETIMES THAT JUST MAKES IT HOTTER.
I'LL TELL YOU WHEN YOU'RE OLDER, VLAD.
I'M GOING BACK TO SLEEP, I'VE GOT A LATE NIGHT PLANNED. AND MY HEAD HURTS.
THE SECOND I'M ALONE, I TALK TO MYSELF.
IS THAT NORMAL?
I'VE BEEN ALONE A LOT IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.
RRRRRRR

CLICK
RAAAAAHHH--
--SSSSS--
--EEEE...
AAIRRRGH!
SH-WAP
RRRR...
OOF!
CHND
C'MON C'MON C'MON...
YOU DUMB MOTHERFUCKERS, THIS ISN'T GONNA WORK IF YOU EAT ME FIRST...


CREEEEAK
CAAAAASSIE?
PLAY DEAD.
RRR...
MISS HAAAACK...?
PLAY. DEAD!
SNATCH
OH MY GOD, THIS WAS REALLY FUCKING DUMB, WHY DIDN'T I BRING VLAD WITH ME?
I HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE GAME FOR FIVE FUCKING YEARS. WHY DID I THINK I COULD JUST USE THIS IDEA FROM FORENSIC FILES? IT'S REALLY, REALLY AN AWFUL IDEA.
WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TELL ME THIS WAS AN AWFUL IDEA??
BECAUSE I'M NOTORIOUSLY AVOIDANT AND THREATEN TO BAIL IF I'M QUESTIONED-- OH SHIT.
WELL, MISS HACK.

ISN'T IT FUNNY THAT WE ALCOHOL PREP THE ARM OF SOMEONE WE'RE ABOUT TO KILL?
GALLOWS HUMOR, I SUPPOSE.


DR. EZEKIEL CHASE
PEACETREE, DOMINIQUE @ INDIGORIVERCAMPOUTS.COM
Agreed completely. It's easy to dismiss these so called "slashers" as monstrous, but we've only seen research of them as adults - wounded and weak. I want a positive environment where children who have experienced the kind of trauma that might *make* them into slashers to *still do so, at an accelerated pace,* but in an environment where they are controlled by a leader who is human, mortal, not clouded by vengeance.


A Life Cycle of the Slasher

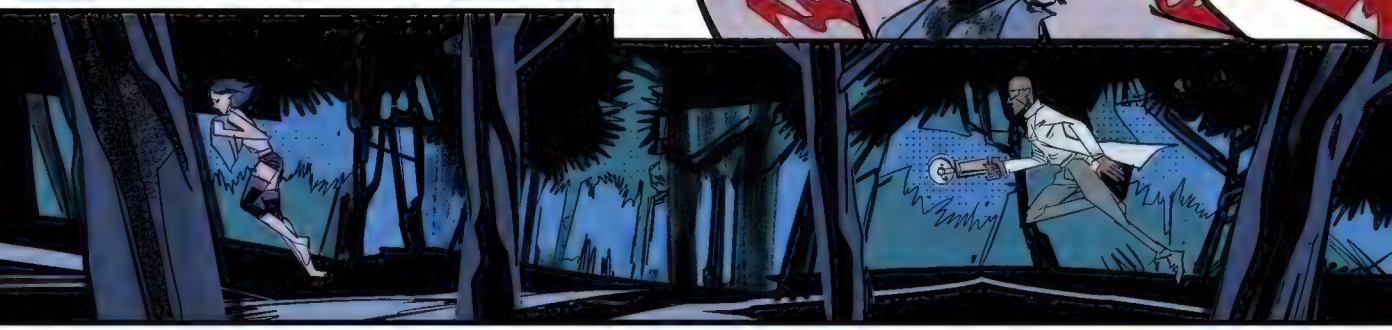
I HATE TO HAVE TO DO THIS, BUT YOUR VITALS ARE CLEARLY FINE.
NO NO NO NO...
SO I'LL JUST FIX THAT WHILE YOU'RE UNCONSCIOUS.
WHAT A LOVELY VEIN YOU HAVE...
LATER, I WILL LEARN THAT HE IS SHOOTING ME FULL OF SODIUM THIOPENTAL.
USED IN ANESTHESIA... TRUTH SERUMS...
"ONE MUST PAY DEARLY FOR IMMORTALITY..."
LETHAL INJECTION. THE PRISON WON'T NOTICE IT'S MISSING.
THANKFULLY THE MAKESHIFT VEIN TUBE MOSTLY HOLDS.
"...WE MUST DIE MANY DEATHS, WHILE STILL ALIVE."
MOSTLY.

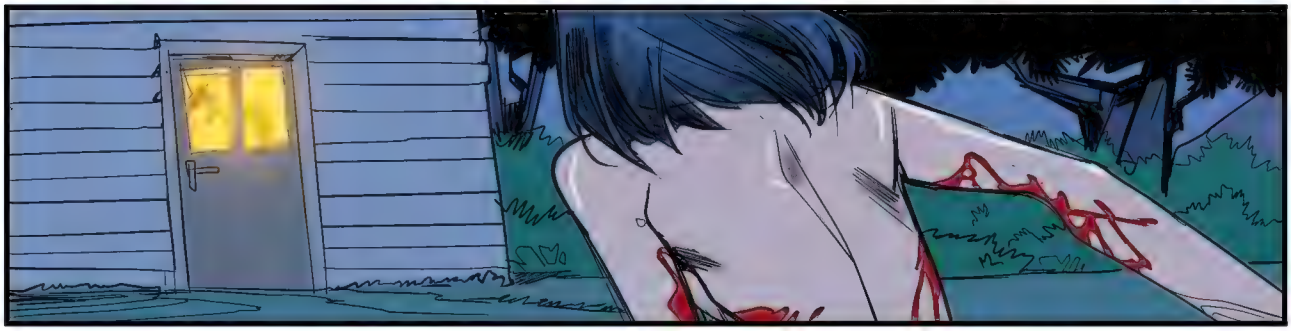
SOME OF THIS STUFF LEAKS THROUGH THE TUBE, JUST ENOUGH TO MAKE ME LOSE TIME, LOSE TRACK OF WHERE I AM.
IF YOUR LIPS ARE PARALYZED, DOES A TRUTH SERUM JUST SHOW YOU YOUR OWN TRUTH?
NOW THAT'S TORTURE.
I KNOW SOME OF THESE GUYS. BUT I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING.
IT'S LIKE WATCHING A MOVIE.
FEELS KIND OF LIKE GETTING HIGH WITH LAURIE.
OH, NOW I FEEL SOMETHING.
NO, NOT BECAUSE OF LAURIE, BECAUSE--
AAAAND, WITH THE FIRST INITIAL LAYER OF THE AUTOPSY INCISION COMPLETE--

THE FUCK?!
SLASHER, I KNEW IT--
I WASN'T EVEN DEAD!
YOU THOUGHT I WAS DEAD?
WHAT THE FUCK KIND OF DOCTOR ARE YOU?!
A DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, HONESTLY.

RRRRRRRRRK
MEDICAL DOCTORS DON'T QUOTE NIETZSCHE, MISS HACK!

RRRRRRR
YOU CAN'T SLAY SLASHERS, MISS HACK.
YOU'VE GAZED TOO LONG AND BECOME ONE.
IT'S LIKE YOU DON'T EVEN READ NIETZSCHE.





MISS HACK?
RRRRRRRR
WHA--
WE DO MORNING MEDITATION HERE WITH MISS LAURIE! ARE YOU SICK? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HURT.
YOU GOTTA... YOU GOTTA GO, LAURIE, YOU GOTTA TAKE 'EM SOMEWHERE ELSE, THEY CAN'T--
CASSIE, WHAT HAPPENED--
SHIT, RUN!
WHAM

SHE DIED, MISS PEACETREE. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
BUT SHE'S BACK NOW.
HE'S FULL OF SHIT, I DIDN'T DIE BACK THERE.
DIDN'T I?
HE'S FULL OF SHIT..
BECAUSE SHE'S A SLASHER.
...RIGHT?

2RRRRRRRRRRR
THAT SOUND.
CHAINSAWS. DRILLS. BLENDERS.
YOU LIVE LIKE I DO, AND THEY ALL MAKE YOU PISS YOURSELF JUST A LITTLE.
AND THE OTHER, MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM...
YOU FREEZE.
RRRRRRRRR
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
WHUMP

RRRAHHH!
RRRRRRRRRRRR
NO--!
HAH... HUH?
RRRRRRR
HK--!
CAN YOU TURN THAT-- THAT THING, OFF?
RRRRRRRRRK
HAH... HAH...
UM... VLAD?
GRK!
RRRRRRRRCLICKRRRMMMMM
THERE WE GO.
NOW I DON'T HAVE TO HEAR MYSELF THINK.

DON'T KILL HIM.
BUT YOU DON'T GOTTA BE NICE.
MY POCKET, CASSIE.
A SHIRT, AND BANDAGES.
OH.
KGGK!
THANKS!
MMMMRRR...
LAURIE--?
RRRRROOOOO...
AH!
NYYARRRRR--
HNNGH-- LET--GO!

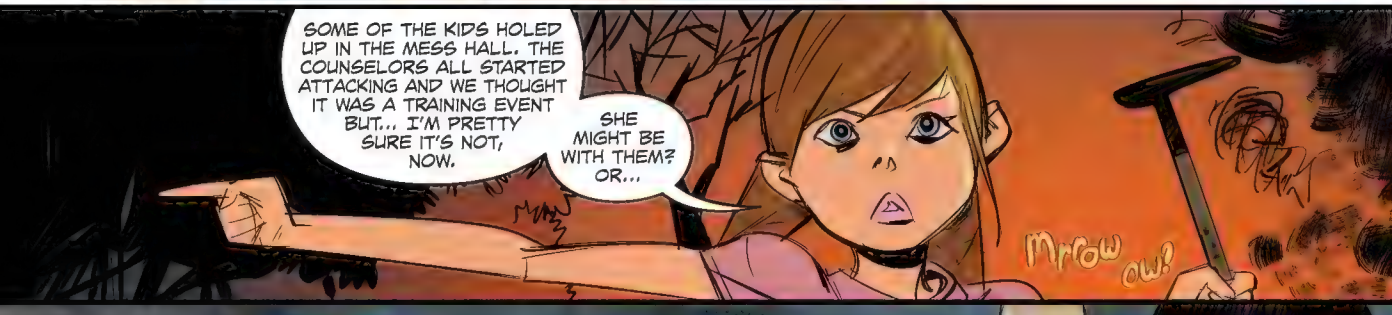
EEEOOOOOOO!
HSSSSSS!!
BUDDY! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT YOU!
OH, I'M SORRY, DID I NOT EXPLAIN THAT I DON'T REALLY DO NURTURING?
YOU WERE EATING TRASH, DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, I TOLD YOU ALL ABOUT ME WHEN YOU MOVED IN.
CASSIE.
LAAUUURIEEEEE--
DR. CHASE BETTER NOT BE DEAD. WHERE YOU BEEN?
HE'S NOT. HAD TO GO GET YOUR BAT. YOU LEFT IT.
HELLO, DARIO.
froth!
HOLY--

GLAD YOU BROUGHT MY BAT, THEN.
CASSIE, WHEN IS LAST TIME YOU SLEPT?
DOES BEING DRUGGED COUNT?
NO.
THEN, UH, I'M NOT SURE...
...BUT IT'S ABOUT TIME TO HIT SOME SACKS.

COUNSELOR MIKEY?
CAN I TAP OUT OF THIS EXERCISE?
I'M FEELING ACTUAL SCARED.
MMMMRRRR...
OKAY, UMM...
C IS FOR CALMLY ASSESS THE THREAT.
A IS FOR...
...AIM FOR THE HEAD! YAH!
RRRRAAAOOO!
KRAK
OH NO OH NO, THIS COSTUME IS REALLY GOOD...
M IS FOR... UMMM...
MASK THE-- AHH!

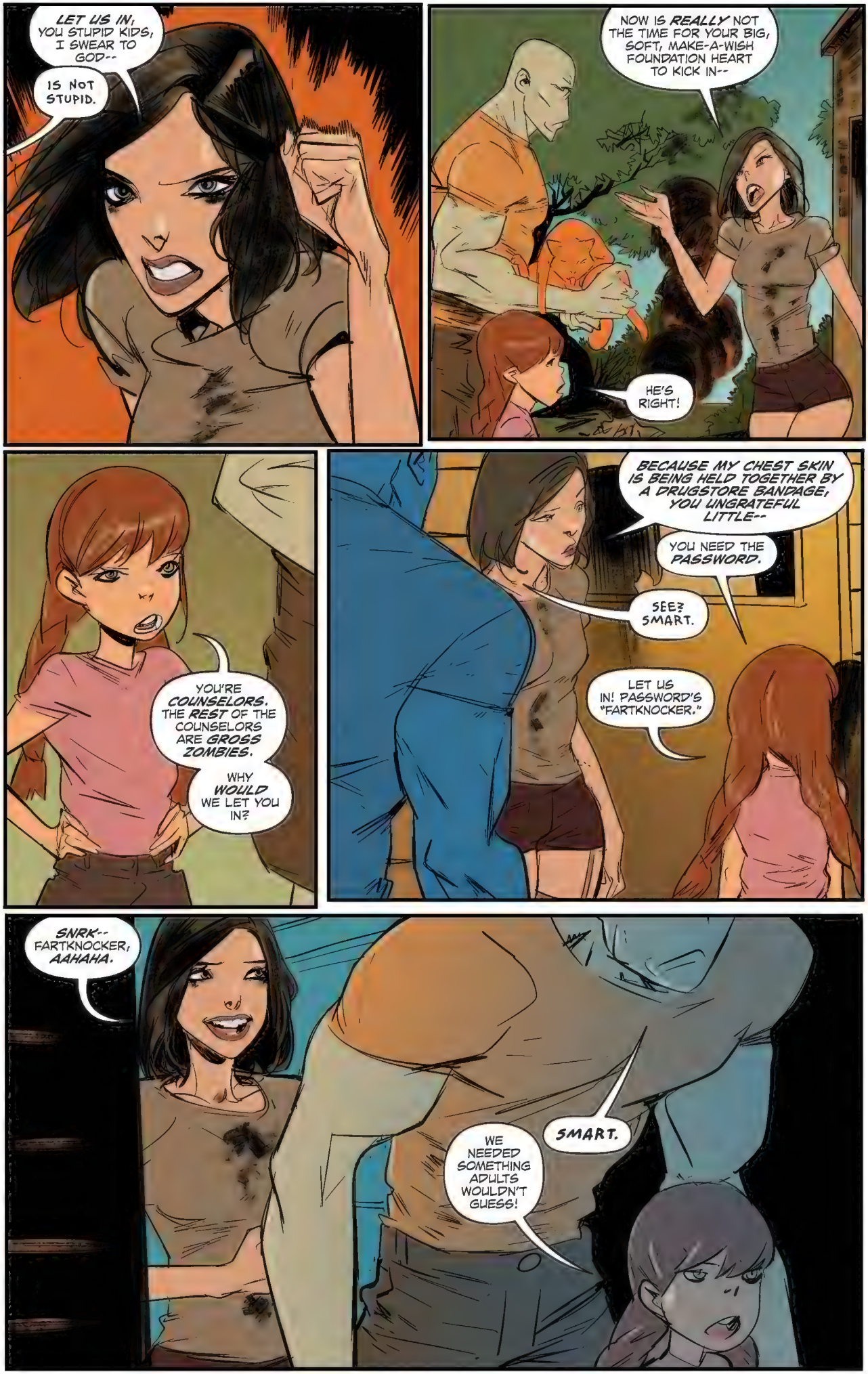
M IS FOR MASK THE SUPERNATURAL PRESENCE.
THAT CAN WAIT FOR NOW.
COUNSELOR VLAD!

HEY, SARAH.
MY NAME IS SIERRA.
WHATEVER. WHERE'S COUNSELOR LAURIE?


SOME OF THE KIDS HOLED UP IN THE MESS HALL. THE COUNSELORS ALL STARTED ATTACKING AND WE THOUGHT IT WAS A TRAINING EVENT BUT... I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S NOT, NOW.
SHE MIGHT BE WITH THEM? OR...
mrow
ow?

purrrrrrr
GIMME.
FUCKING CAT!
nrrrr

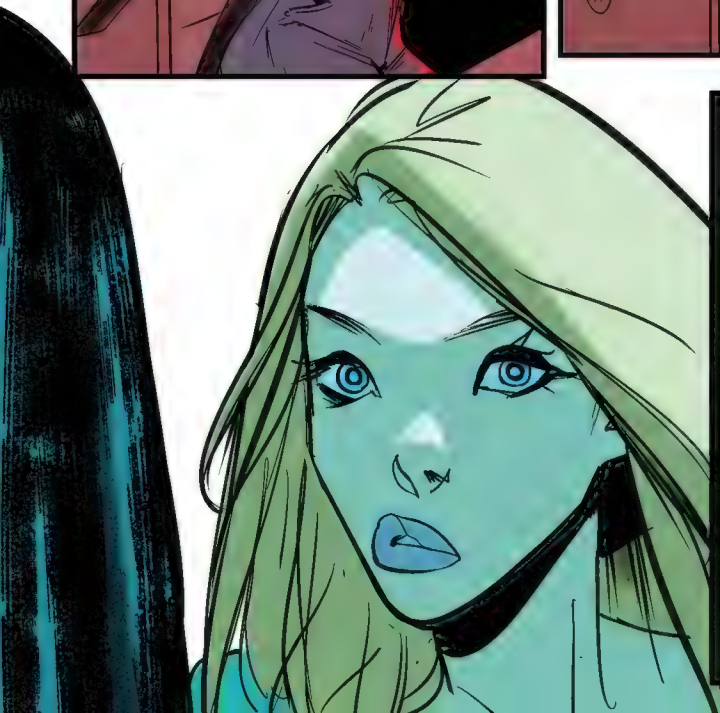
IT'S... IT'S LAURIE'S.
ptHPtt
ARE YOU SURE?
OH YES, CASSIE KNOWS LAURIE'S HANDS WELL--
VLAD.
MESS HALL. NOW.
HNGH!


LET US IN, YOU STUPID KIDS, I SWEAR TO GOD--
IS NOT STUPID.
NOW IS REALLY NOT THE TIME FOR YOUR BIG, SOFT, MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION HEART TO KICK IN--
HE'S RIGHT!
YOU'RE COUNSELORS. THE REST OF THE COUNSELORS ARE GROSS ZOMBIES.
WHY WOULD WE LET YOU IN?
BECAUSE MY CHEST SKIN IS BEING HELD TOGETHER BY A DRUGSTORE BANDAGE, YOU UNGRATEFUL LITTLE--
YOU NEED THE PASSWORD.
SEE? SMART.
LET US IN! PASSWORD'S "FARTKNOCKER."
SNRK-- FARTKNOCKER, AAHAHA.
SMART.
WE NEEDED SOMETHING ADULTS WOULDN'T GUESS!

WH-WHO'S THERE?
IT'S ME, COUNSELOR HACK, GUYS.
OH NOOO! SHE'S CRAZY!
OH, SHH.
WHUMP
STAY DOWN, KIDS.
PSST! COUNSELOR LAURIE WENT BACK THERE TO LOOK AROUND!
OKAY, OKAY, SHH.
VLAD, STAY HERE, UNLESS I START SCREAMING.
SOMETIMES YOU AND LAURIE START SCREAMING AND I AM TO NOT COME IN, THOUGH.
OKAY, WELL. THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN RIGHT NOW, BUDDY, PRIMARILY BECAUSE MY GUTS ARE BLEEDING.
YOU COME IN IF YOU HEAR ME YELL.

CLK

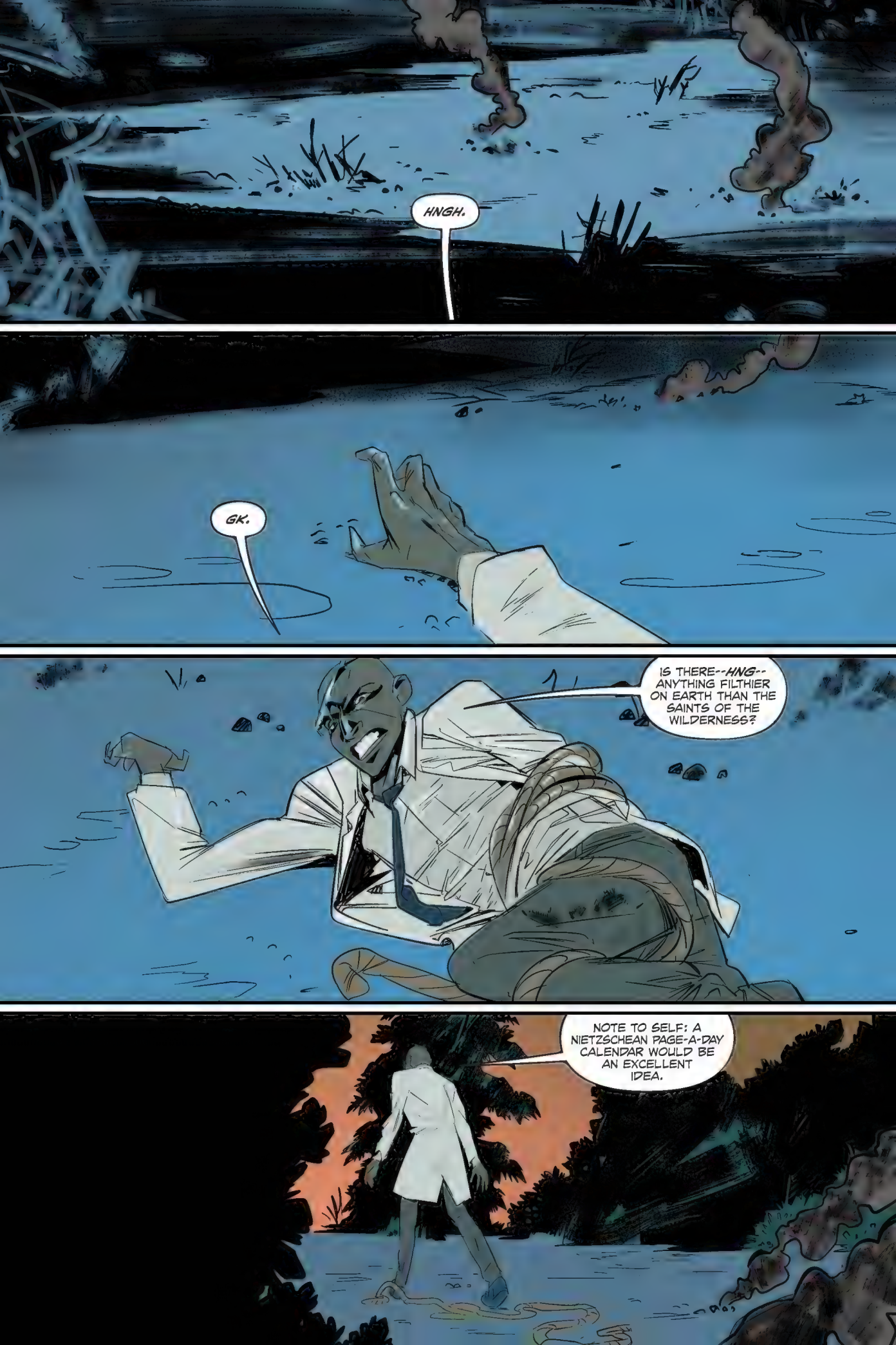
...IS BEST FOR MY DAUGHTER. IN A WORLD WHERE THESE THINGS EXIST, I WANT TO BE ABLE TO TRUST THAT YOU'LL BE OKAY!
MOM, ONE OF THEM BIT MY FINGER OFF! I'M PRETTY FUCKING FAR FROM OKA--



WHAT'RE YOU--
NO!
NOTHING, I JUST--MOM, CAN'T YOU SEE WHY I'M HORRIFIED?

YOU DRUGGED COUNSELORS, MOM. YOU LET THAT CREEP OF A DOCTOR EXPERIMENT ON THESE PEOPLE SO YOU COULD EXPERIMENT FURTHER ON CHILDREN!
I DID WHEN I FOUND OUT, MOM.
YOU NEVER COMPLAINED BACK WHEN THEY TESTED YOUR LIPSTICK ON BUNNY RABBITS, LAURIE.
PLEASE, MOM. IF THERE'S A WAY THIS ALL MAKES SENSE, I WANT TO HEAR IT.
I WILL HEAR YOU OUT.
OH BROTHER. I HATE HEARING THEM OUT.
I'M LISTENING.
LAURIE, THESE THINGS THAT PEOPLE CALL SLASHERS, WHAT THEY CAN DO IS MIND-BOGGLING. LIFE AFTER DEATH, THE APPARENT RESILIENCY... THEY ARE HARD TO KILL.
DON'T YOU HAVE TO KILL THESE CHILDREN FIRST?
HEAVENS, NO.

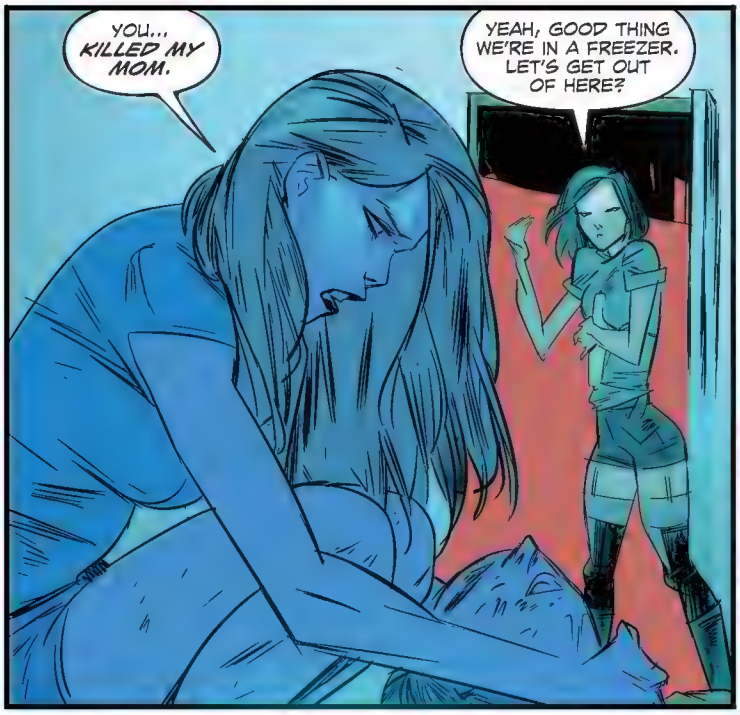
THAT'S WHAT THE DOSING OF THE COUNSELORS HAS BEEN FOR. IT ACTS MORE SLOWLY WHEN IMBIBED THAT WAY, BUT EVENTUALLY THEY WERE GOING TO TURN, AND THEY'D TAKE CARE OF KILLING THE CHILDREN.
THE... FRENCH TOAST STICKS?!
ONLY THEIRS, LAURIE. I'D NEVER POISON YOU OR ME WITH THAT FILTH.
WHAT ABOUT CASSIE?
OH, THE HACK GIRL?
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO MAKE HER ANY WORSE--
CASSIE!
WHAP
OOOOOF!
RUN.
NO!
YOU PROBABLY SHOULD, DEAR.
CASSIE AND I HAVE TO TALK.


HNGH.
GK.
IS THERE--HNG--ANYTHING FILTHIER ON EARTH THAN THE SAINTS OF THE WILDERNESS?
NOTE TO SELF: A NIETZSCHEAN PAGE-A-DAY CALENDAR WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT IDEA.

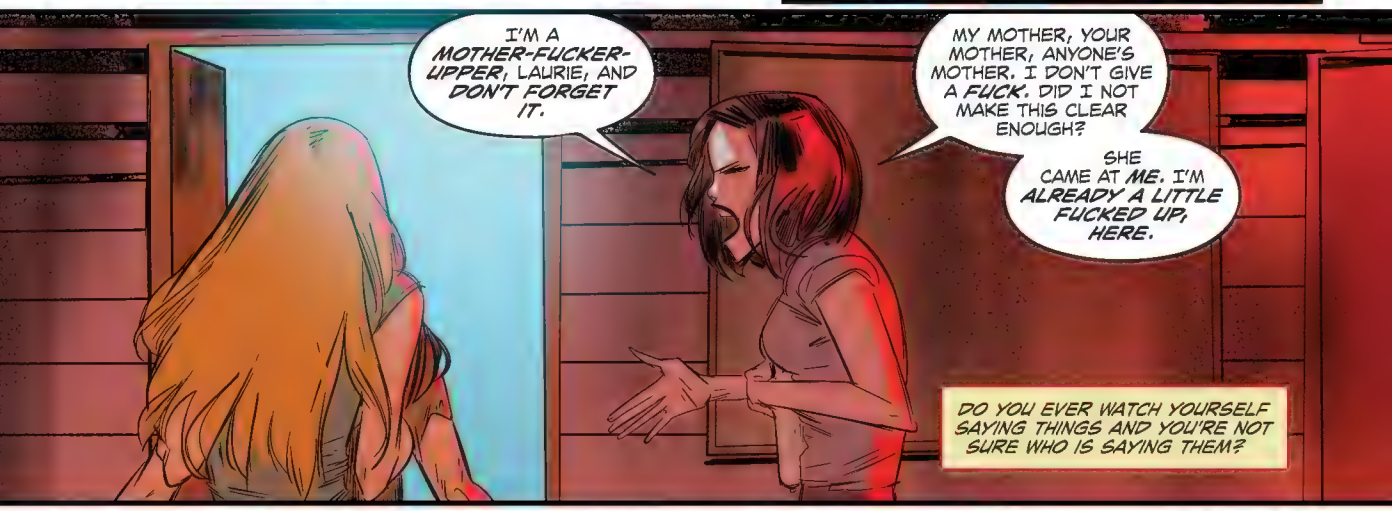
SHHUNK
TAKE ME TO MISS HACK OR I DEPRESS THE PLUNGER, YOU ENORMOUS IDIOT LENNIE OF A MAN.
CRASH
OKAY.
BUT ONLY BECAUSE I WAS GOING THAT WAY ALREADY.

HNK!
IS ANY PART OF MY PLAN *UNCLEAR* TO YOU, CASSIE? OR DO YOU *HONESTLY* BELIEVE THAT WITH *YOUR* REPUTATION, *ANYONE* WOULD CALL YOUR ASS OUT OF NOWHERE AND ASK YOU TO *LOOK AFTER CHILDREN?*
SQUEEZE
YOU'RE NOT A MOTHER. YOU'RE NOT A DOCTOR. YOU'RE AN *OBSTACLE*. A *TOOL*. YOU DON'T KNOW A *DAMN* THING ABOUT WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO HAVE A CHILD, WATCH THEM SUCCEED, WATCH THEM FAIL.
MY OWN DAUGHTER IS TOO *DEAR* TO ME TO USE AS SOME EXPERIMENT FOR MY OWN RAGE.
PITY YOUR MOTHER DIDN'T FEEL THE SAME.
DOH!
UNHH!

HE'S BARELY A DOCTOR. HE'S A DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY.
BUT HE WORKED AT THE PRISON?
RIGHT? IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH PEOPLE DON'T CARE AT ALL ABOUT THE WELFARE OF PRISONERS.
STAY AWAY FROM HER, YOU BITCH.
MOM...?
I... MAY HAVE FUCKED THIS UP.


YOU... KILLED MY MOM.
YEAH, GOOD THING WE'RE IN A FREEZER. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE?

YOU... MOTHERFUCKER.


I'M A MOTHER-FUCKER-UPPER, LAURIE, AND DON'T FORGET IT.
MY MOTHER, YOUR MOTHER, ANYONE'S MOTHER. I DON'T GIVE A FUCK. DID I NOT MAKE THIS CLEAR ENOUGH?
SHE CAME AT ME. I'M ALREADY A LITTLE FUCKED UP, HERE.
DO YOU EVER WATCH YOURSELF SAYING THINGS AND YOU'RE NOT SURE WHO IS SAYING THEM?

FUCK YOU. I WANTED TO HELP YOU STOP HER, NOT KILL HER.
SOME DOGS HAVE TO BE PUT DOWN, LAURIE.
YOU'RE A SHITTY PET OWNER, TOO.
"WHO IS THIS ASSHOLE? WON'T SOMEONE STOP HER FROM TALKING?"

I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T NEED THIS. NINETEEN-YEAR-OLDS ARE SO DRAMATIC.
HEH, OF COURSE NOT.

RIGHT, OF COURSE.
YOU DON'T NEED ANYONE. MORE IMPORTANTLY...
THERE'S NO POINT IN TRYING, WITH YOU.
OH, WE DOING THIS? YOU WANNA FIGHT ME?
LET ME STOP ICING MY INSIDES WITH "CHOCOLATE-FLAVORED CHIPS" AND I'LL GET RIGHT ON THAT.
"THIS POOR IDIOT ASSHOLE GIRL. SOMEONE STOP HER. PLEASE."
ARE YOU KIDDING ME? I'M NOT YOU. I DON'T LIVE IN SOME HORROR MOVIE WORLD. I DON'T FIGHT PEOPLE, I JUST--
I JUST WANT MY MOM BACK. YOU KILLED HER.
THERE'S NO UNKILLING HER.
LAURIE--
MISS PEACETREE...

YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.
HE DEMANDS TO SEE YOU. I THOUGHT, I BRING HIM HERE, WE COULD BEAT HIM UP AGAIN?
NOW'S NOT THE TIME--
WAIT--!
SPLK
RRRR...
AHHH-AHAHA! HAAAAHAHAH!
MOM!!
RAAARRR!
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD HER--
THIS WAS INEVITABLE.

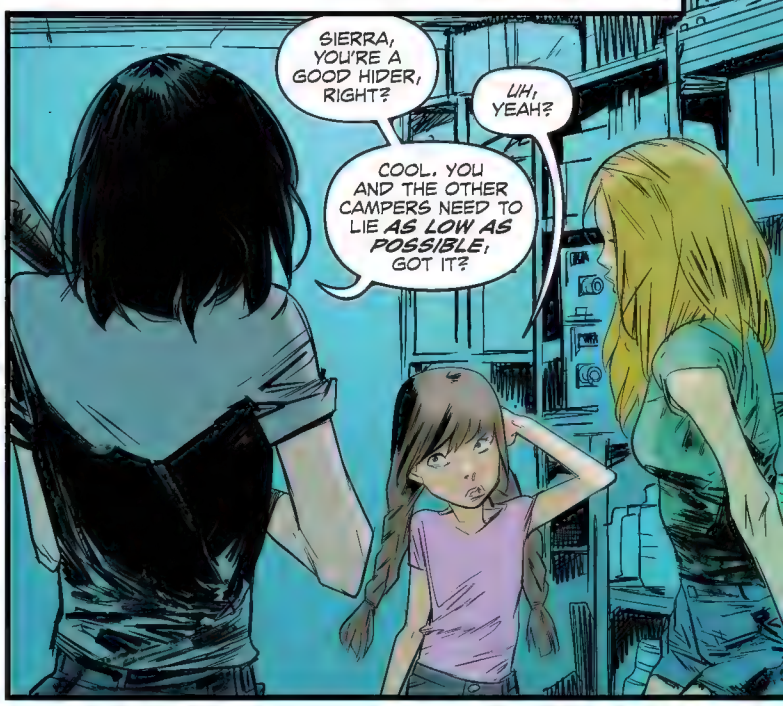
nrrrrrppp!
HEY, DARIO.
WE SHOULD GO FIND VLAD, HUH?
nyaaaaa
C'MON.

MISS PEACETREE, I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY BUT WE'RE HUNGRY AND--
YOWWWWWW!
HHH...
AAAAAUHHHHH... UGHH...
EEEEEEEE!

ALWAYS TOUGH TO MEET YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S PARENTS, HUH?
THAT'S A BAD JOKE, SORRY.
LAURIE WAS NEVER MY GIRLFRIEND.
SLAM
RRAAUAUUUUGH!
SKRITCH SKRITCH
OKAAAAAY, LET'S REGROUP.
CASSIE, MY FUCKING MOTHER IS OUT THERE--!

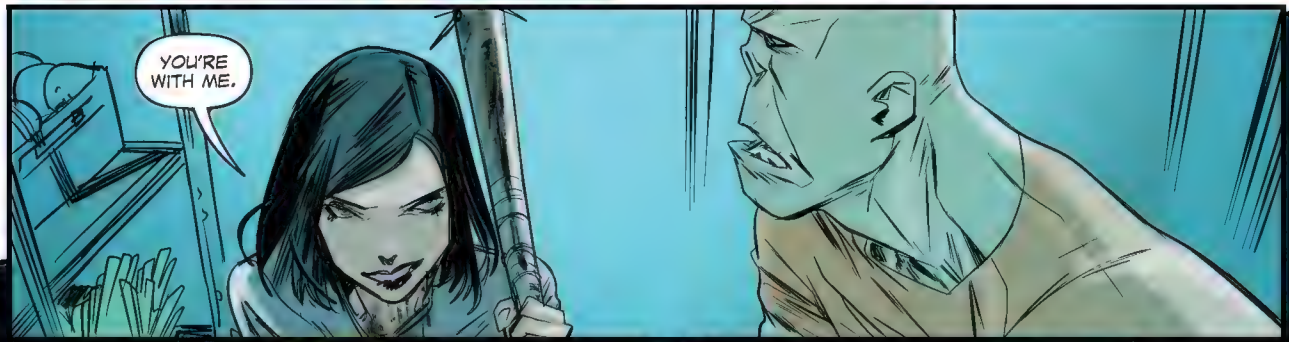
LAURIE, YOUR FUCKING MOTHER IS DEAD, SHE'S THE PROBLEM NOW.
YOU KILLED HER!
YOU DID THAT! YOU MADE THIS PROBLEM!
LAURIE, CASSIE DID NOT KNOW. SHE IS HURT, AND SCARED. SHE THOUGHT YOUR MOTHER WAS GOING TO HURT HER, OR YOU.
CASSIE, YOU KILLED HER MOTHER. SHE CANNOT FORGIVE THAT.
HAAAA... AHA... AHAHAAA!
FUCK IS YOUR PROBLEM?
HE'S BARELY GOT HALF A BRAIN LEFT IN THAT SKULL OF HIS AND HE'S MORE THOUGHTFUL THAN BOTH OF YOU.
INTELLIGENCE ALWAYS BREEDS CRUELTY, MISS HACK.
YOU'RE A SMART GIRL.

UGH, STOP IT.


SIERRA, YOU'RE A GOOD HIDER, RIGHT?
UH, YEAH?
COOL. YOU AND THE OTHER CAMPERS NEED TO LIE AS LOW AS POSSIBLE, GOT IT?

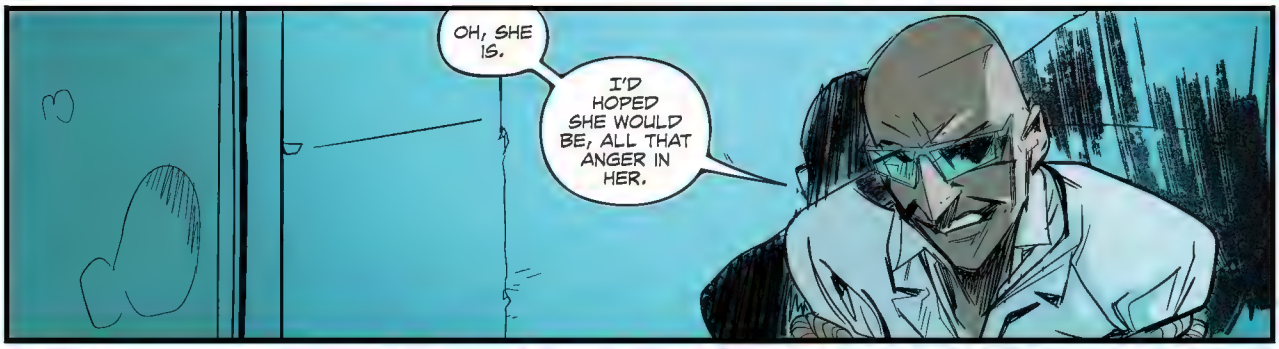
K-ZT
THIS IS TRANSFORMER CALLING TOYBOX-- WE'RE DOING GHOST IN THE GRAVEYARD PROTOCOL.
ROGER, TRANSFORMER.

DID YOU--?
OKAY, VLAD?
YES?


YOU'RE WITH ME.

YOU TOO.

WHY?
BECAUSE. IF YOUR MOM IS A SLASHER NOW, WHICH I'M GUESSING SHE IS--
WHAT ELSE WOULD SHE BE?!


OH, SHE IS.
I'D HOPED SHE WOULD BE, ALL THAT ANGER IN HER.

ANGER? MY MOM WAS A SAINT, SHE WORKED WITH CHILDREN. SHE WASN'T ANGRY.
OH, SHE WAS.
RAISING A CHILD IN THIS WORLD? IT'S INFURIATING.
TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND FINDING YOURSELF IMPOTENT? MADDENING.

SHE'S A SLASHER, SHE'S DEAD, AND SHE'LL WANT TO TAKE HER DAUGHTER--THE LIGHT OF HER LIFE-- WITH HER.

HE'S RIGHT.
YOU'RE BAIT.

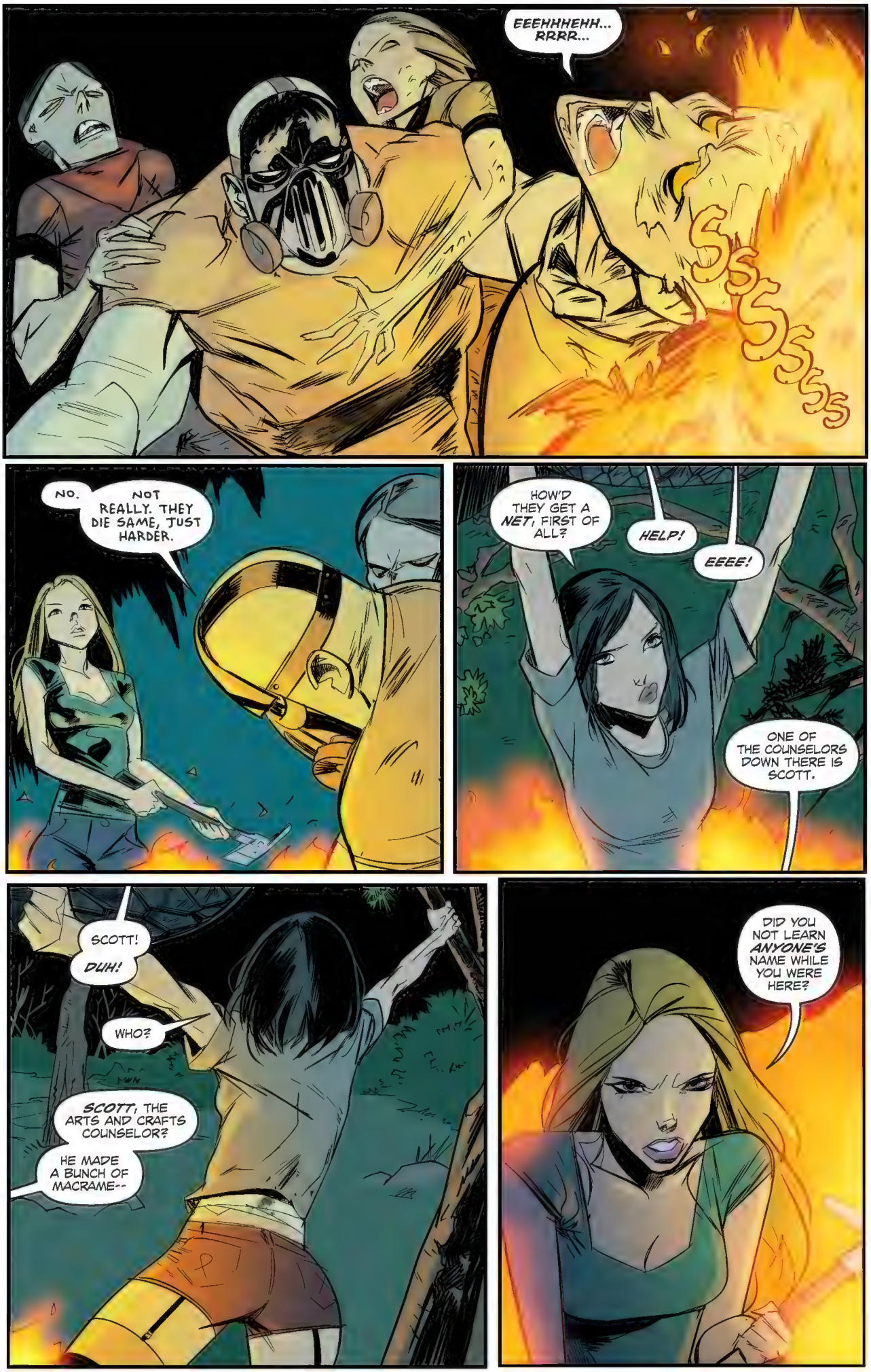
WHICH MEANS WE NEED TO GET YOU AS FAR AWAY FROM THESE KIDS AS POSSIBLE.
DID THE DOCTOR LEAVE MORE FUN-DEAD FOR YOU CASSIE?
I DON'T KNOW, WHY-- OOP--SORRY, DOUG. I BORROWED YOUR FLASHLIGHT.
AAH!
THOK
AND NEVER GAVE IT BACK.
AND NO, DR. CHASE WASN'T IN A TALKING MOOD WHEN WE LEFT. HE WAS ALL TIED UP. GUESS HE WAS FEELING COLD TOWARD US. I ASKED HIM AND HE JUST FRO--
F-F-FOOLSSSS-SS-S.

THIS WAY, I SEE SILHOUETTES NEAR THE FIRE CIRCLE!
MAYBE IT'S THE CAMPERS GA-- ECCK?
FIRE CIRCLE
HURK!
LAURIE?
HEY, VLAD, LAURIE'S SICK--
LAURIE, YOU OKA-- HEY!
DON'T TOUCH ME.
THINKING ABOUT THIS SHIT MAKES ME NAUSEATED. I NEED TO PUT MY MOM TO REST. AFTER THAT?
I DON'T WANNA SEE YOU EVER AGAIN.
YOU KEPT MAKING SURE I KNEW YOU DON'T NEED ME, SO YOU FORGOT I DONT NEED YOU.

FINE.
WHATEVER, LET'S JUST DEAL WITH IT.
ENOUGH OF THE EMOTIONAL ONE-LINERS.
FINE.
GREAT.
OH.
YEAH... I WAS WORRIED ABOUT THIS.
THE FUCK?

YEAH, THERE'S A...
...WEIRD COMPONENT?
UNNNHNNNH...
LIKE, A CREEPY METAPHYSICAL RITUALISTIC COMPONENT.
HUP!
WHAT THE--?!
AAAAAHHH, IT'S A COUNSELOR!!
FOUND THE KIDS.

COOL. RITUALISTIC?
YES. MUST BE RELATED TO WHY THEY GATHER THEMSELVES AND THE CHILDREN HERE.
DARK MAGIC. ANCIENT MAGIC. BLACK AMBROSIA.
IS THAT--
LIKE, IS THAT RELEVANT? DO I NEED TO KNOW THAT TO TAKE THESE GUYS OUT, OR--
HNNH--
RRRAUUUGHRAAA--


EEEHHHEHH... RRRR...
SSSSSSS
NO.
NOT REALLY. THEY DIE SAME, JUST HARDER.
HOW'D THEY GET A NET, FIRST OF ALL?
HELP!
EEEE!
ONE OF THE COUNSELORS DOWN THERE IS SCOTT.
SCOTT!
DUH!
WHO?
SCOTT, THE ARTS AND CRAFTS COUNSELOR?
HE MADE A BUNCH OF MACRAME--
DID YOU NOT LEARN ANYONE'S NAME WHILE YOU WERE HERE?

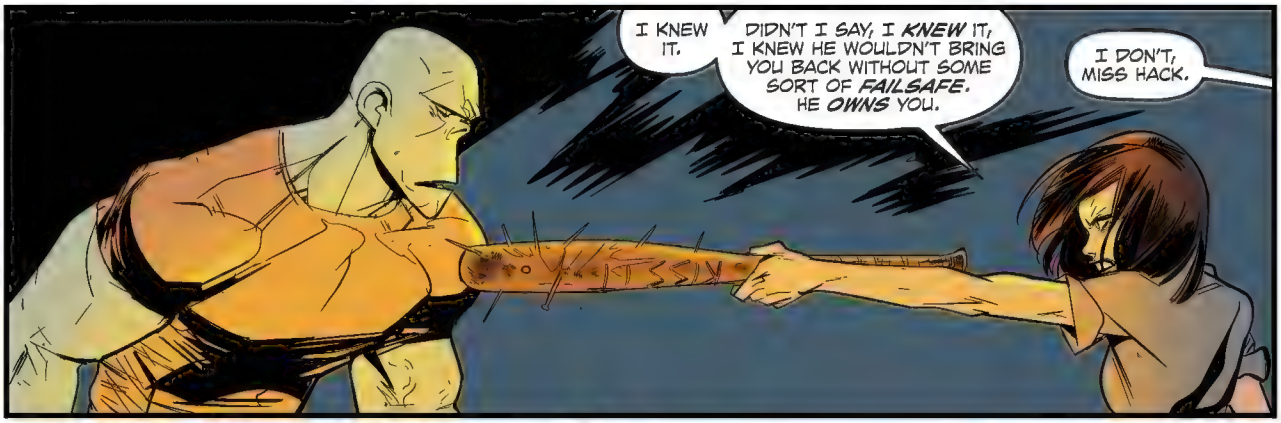
I'M SCAAAARED!
LET US DOWN!
NO, I GUESS I DIDN'T, OKAY?
JUST-- HANG TIGHT, OKAY?
IS THAT A JOKE?!
I DON'T WANNA!
LET'S BRAIN THESE CHUMPS AND GET THE FUCK OUTTA DODGE.
YOU'RE LEAVING THE CAMP?
ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU DO NOW?
NAH.

WHACK
NAAAH.
AAAAGH--!!
THIS IS WHAT WE DO.
NOW AND FOREVER.
GREAT, YOU'RE GETTING CATHARSIS.
I'M TAKING THESE KIDS INTO TOWN, FOR SAFETY.
HUH?
I'M LEAVING. IN THE VAN. AND TAKING ALL THE CAMPERS. I DON'T WANT TO LOOK AT THE THING MY MOM'S BECOME, WHEN SHE GETS HERE.
I, UH, OKAAAY.
I GUESS I THOUGHT WE'D TALK--
NOPE.

I DON'T CARE WHAT KIND OF CHEMISTRY WE HAVE. YOU KILLED MY MOM. SELF-DEFENSE OR OTHERWISE, I CAN'T DEAL WITH THAT.
FUCK YOU, CASSIE HACK. I WANT YOU GONE WHEN I GET BACK TO CLEAN UP THIS CAMP.
OKAY, LET'S GO KILL THE SLASHER THAT APPARENTLY I SOMEHOW MADE IN SELF-DEFENSE OR WHATEVER--
BYE, VLAD-- YOU'RE BETTER THAN HER!
GOODBYE, LAURIE.
OKAY, GUYS, EVERYONE GET A BUDDY, AND YOU AND YOUR BUDDY PAIR UP WITH ANOTHER BUDDY GROUP. STRAIGHT TO THE VAN, NO PEE BREAKS...
BUT I HAVE TO--
IF YOU GO STRAIGHT TO THE VAN WE CAN ALL GET McDONALD'S.
OOOOOH, NUGGETS.
HMM-- AHHAHA HAHHHAA... HM...

GOOD THING SHE DIDN'T STICK AROUND FOR YOUR EPIC BATTLE AGAINST HER DEAD MOTHER.
SORRY TO TAKE YOUR EMOTIONALLY SIGNIFICANT SHOWDOWN FROM YOU!
I ADMIT, THE FORMULA I'VE BEEN USING IS IMPERFECT. I WASN'T SURE THAT SHE'D HOLD UP VERY LONG. THE GIRL SHOULDN'T HAVE TO SEE HER MOTHER LIKE THIS, SO I'M QUITE GLAD YOU PUSHED HER AWAY.
URRRRGH...
IT WAS A SEPARATE BATCH, YOU SEE, FROM WHAT I USED ON YOUR FRIEND...
WHO KNOWS WHEN THAT ONE WILL FAIL.
ANY MINUTE NOW, MAYBE?!
EEEEENOUGH!

WE!
ARE NOT!
YOUR EXPERIMENTS!
NOW'M GONNA FUCKIN' KILL YOU AND BE DONE WITH THI--
NO.
WHAT THE FUCK-- VLAD! LEMME GO--
I'M GONNA KILL HIM.
NO.
HEEHEE HEEEEE...


I KNEW IT.
DIDN'T I SAY, I KNEW IT, I KNEW HE WOULDN'T BRING YOU BACK WITHOUT SOME SORT OF FAILSAFE. HE OWNS YOU.
I DON'T, MISS HACK.

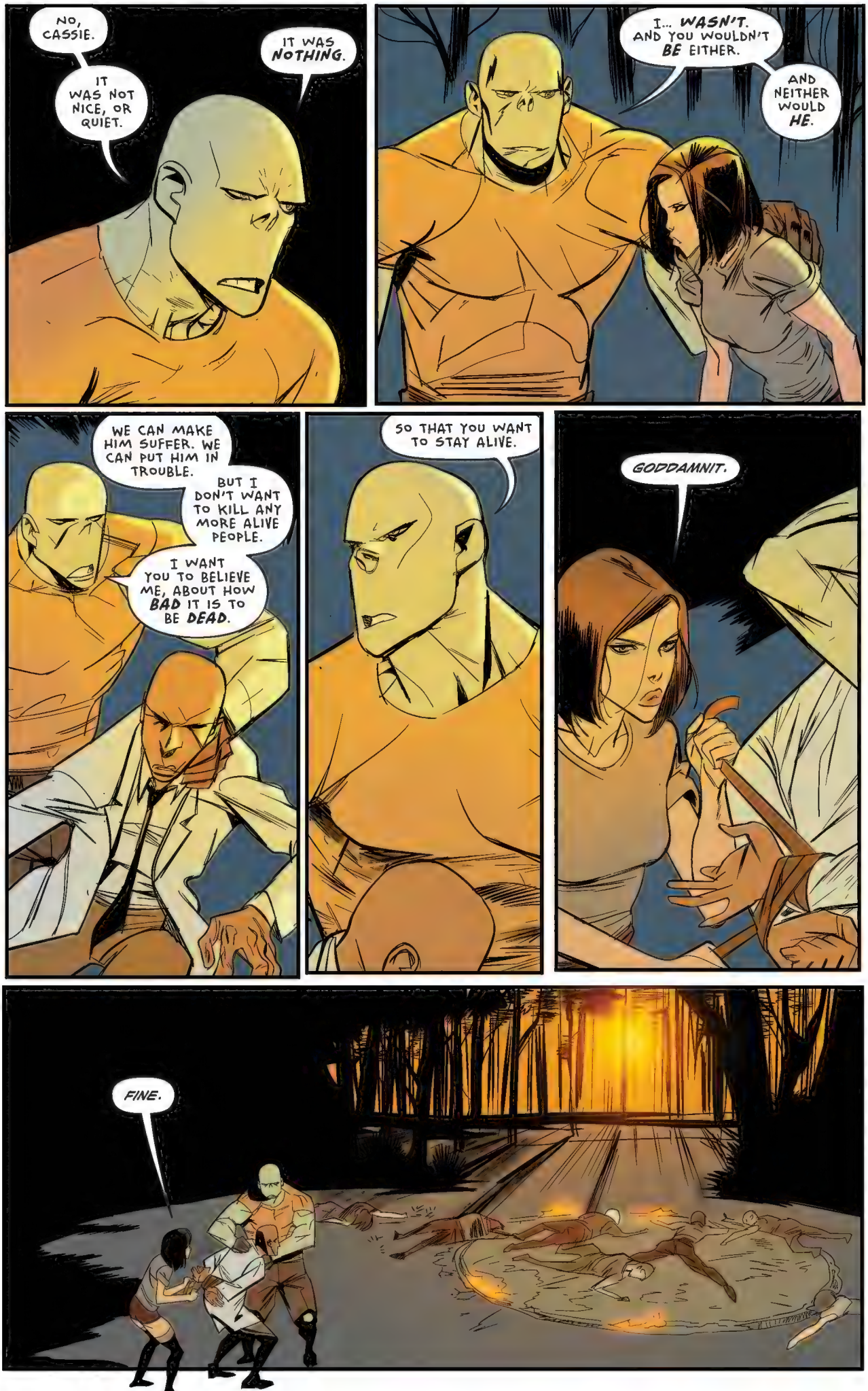
BULLSHIT.

NO, CASSIE LISTEN.
NO MORE KILLING!
AAAAH! FASCINATING!

HE'S A NIGHTMARE, VLAD.

I'M TIRED OF FIGHTING THEM OFF.
SO LET'S KILL HIM SO HE CAN'T HURT PEOPLE ANYMORE!

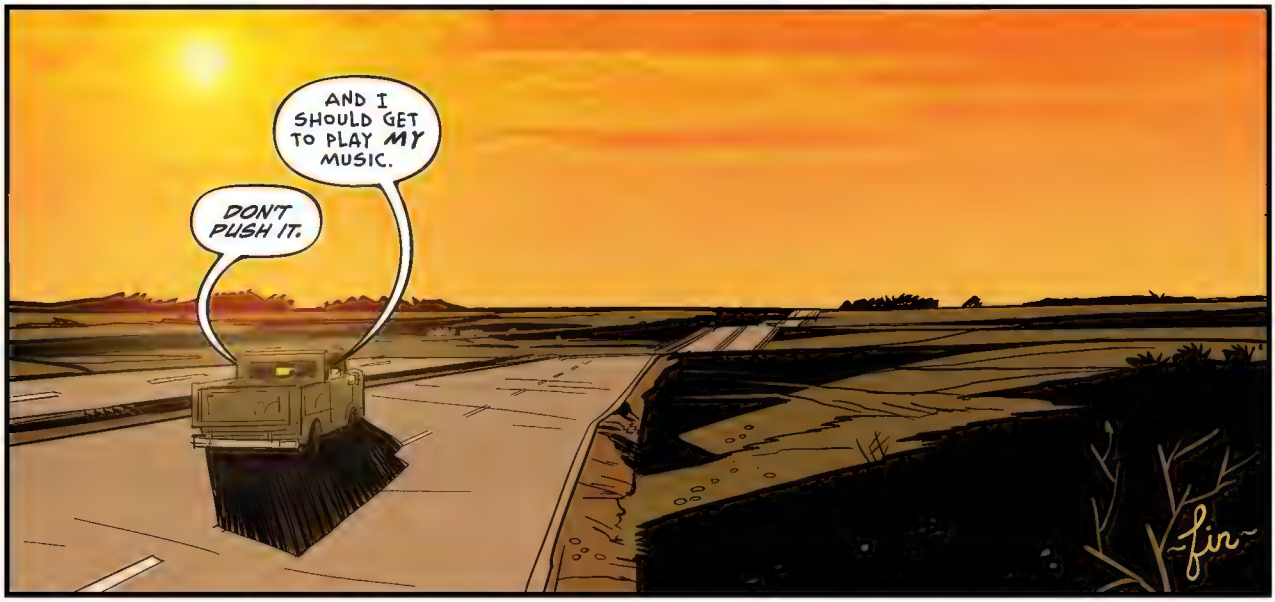
HELL, IT'S A FAVOR. BEING DEAD SOUNDS QUIET.
WAS IT?
WAS IT NICE, AND QUIET, AND DID PEOPLE LEAVE YOU ALONE?


NO, CASSIE.
IT WAS NOT NICE, OR QUIET.
IT WAS NOTHING.
I... WASN'T. AND YOU WOULDN'T BE EITHER.
AND NEITHER WOULD HE.
WE CAN MAKE HIM SUFFER. WE CAN PUT HIM IN TROUBLE.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO KILL ANY MORE ALIVE PEOPLE.
I WANT YOU TO BELIEVE ME, ABOUT HOW BAD IT IS TO BE DEAD.
SO THAT YOU WANT TO STAY ALIVE.
GODDAMNIT.
FINE.

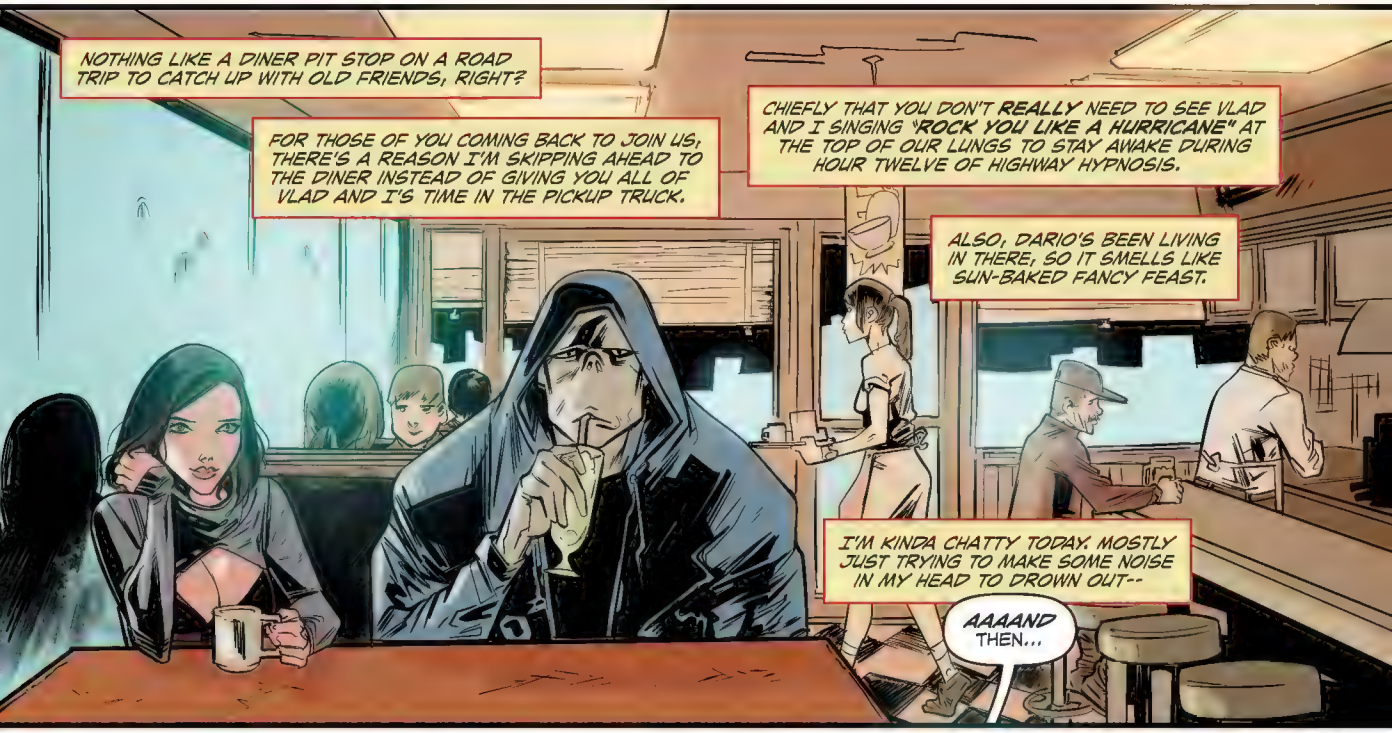
YOU HAPPY?
SOON.
Englund Correctional Facility .2 Miles
Camp Indigo River 1 Mile

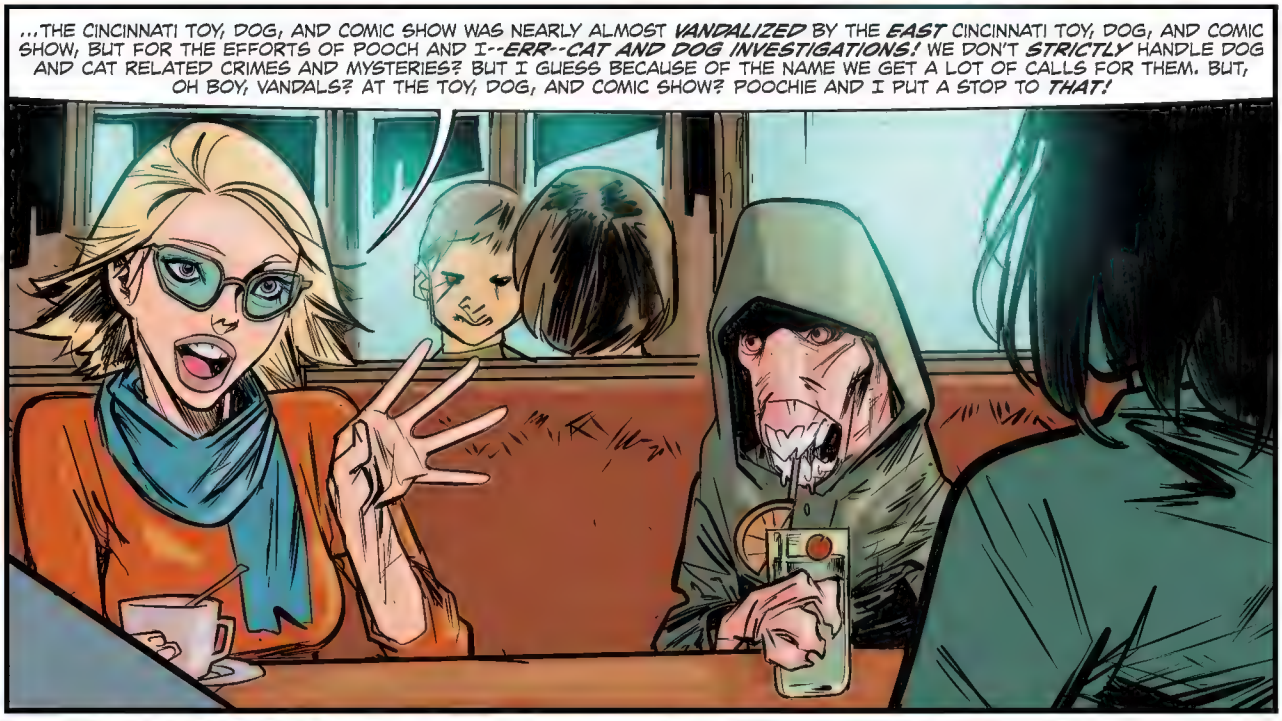
HE LIVES, OKAY? AND I'M NOT READY FOR A RELATIONSHIP. AND YOU'RE ALIVE, FOR THE MOMENT!
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING, WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT?
SNACKS.
ROAD TRIP NEEDS SNACKS.

GEEZ, SNACKS, I LET THE GUY LIVE...
...AND I LET YOU BRING THE CAT!
I'M TOO GOOD TO YOU, BUDDY.
Mrph?
I MIGHT BE DYING. I SHOULD HAVE CAT.
IS YOUR CAT.
French Toast Sticks

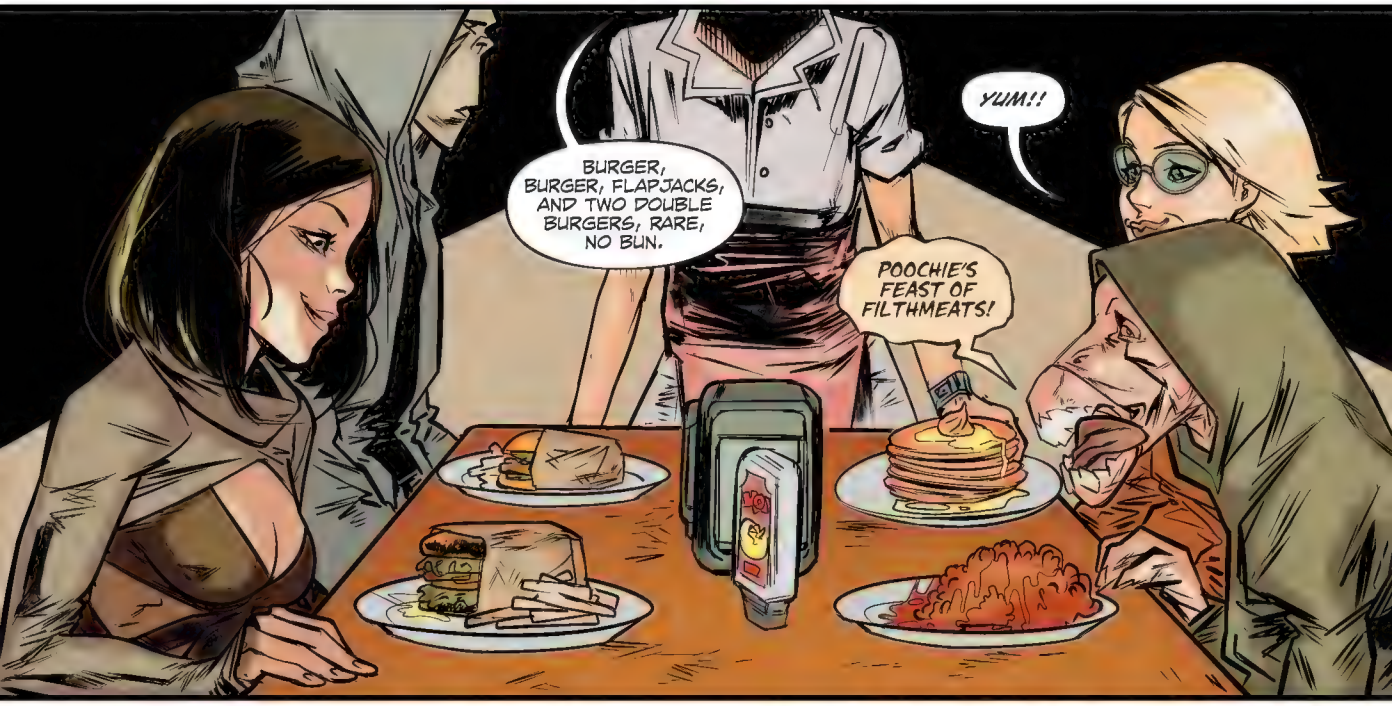

AND I SHOULD GET TO PLAY MY MUSIC.
DON'T PUSH IT.
~fin~

Hack/Slash Ressurection #7 cover A by
TIM SEELEY & K. MICHAEL RUSSELL


NOTHING LIKE A DINER PIT STOP ON A ROAD TRIP TO CATCH UP WITH OLD FRIENDS, RIGHT?
FOR THOSE OF YOU COMING BACK TO JOIN US, THERE'S A REASON I'M SKIPPING AHEAD TO THE DINER INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU ALL OF VLAD AND I'S TIME IN THE PICKUP TRUCK.
CHIEFLY THAT YOU DON'T **REALLY** NEED TO SEE VLAD AND I SINGING "**ROCK YOU LIKE A HURRICANE**" AT THE TOP OF OUR LUNGS TO STAY AWAKE DURING HOUR TWELVE OF HIGHWAY HYPNOSIS.
ALSO, DARIO'S BEEN LIVING IN THERE, SO IT SMELLS LIKE SUN-BAKED FANCY FEAST.
I'M KINDA CHATTY TODAY. MOSTLY JUST TRYING TO MAKE SOME NOISE IN MY HEAD TO DROWN OUT--
AAAAND THEN...

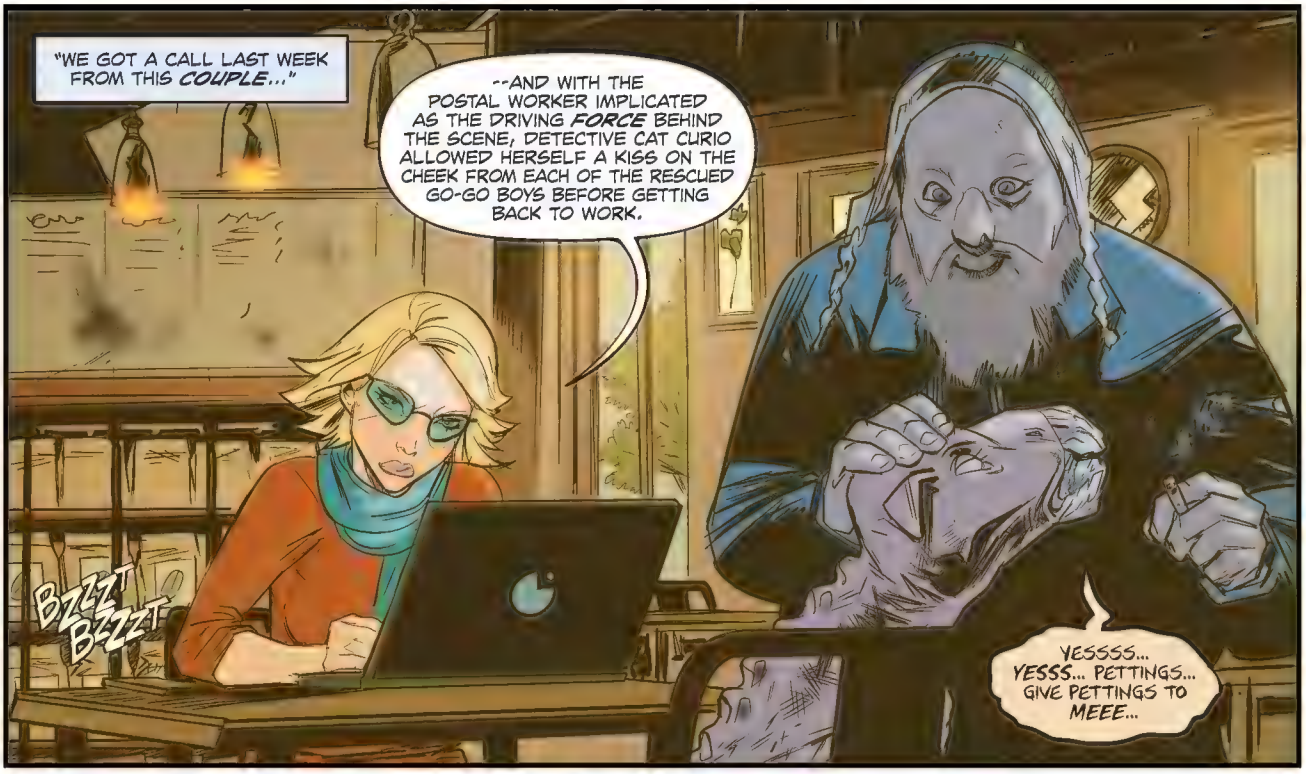

...THE CINCINNATI TOY, DOG, AND COMIC SHOW WAS NEARLY ALMOST **VANDALIZED** BY THE **EAST** CINCINNATI TOY, DOG, AND COMIC SHOW, BUT FOR THE EFFORTS OF POOCH AND I--**ERR--CAT AND DOG INVESTIGATIONS!** WE DON'T **STRICTLY** HANDLE DOG AND CAT RELATED CRIMES AND MYSTERIES? BUT I GUESS BECAUSE OF THE NAME WE GET A LOT OF CALLS FOR THEM. BUT, OH BOY, VANDALS? AT THE TOY, DOG, AND COMIC SHOW? POOCHIE AND I PUT A STOP TO **THAT!**

THE **WINNING** DOG WAS A **BORZOI** NAMED **SAVAGE DRAG--**
CAT--


BURGER, BURGER, FLAPJACKS, AND TWO DOUBLE BURGERS, RARE, NO BUN.
YUM!!
POOCHIE'S FEAST OF FILTHMEATS!

I'VE BEEN IN THE TRUCK FOR TWELVE HOURS, SO I'M GONNA PUT THIS WHOLE BURGER IN MY MOUTH WHILE YOU EXPLAIN WHAT YOU NEED VLAD AND I'S HELP WITH, OKAY?
STAY ON TOPIC.

RIGHT! SO--


"WE GOT A CALL LAST WEEK FROM THIS COUPLE..."
--AND WITH THE POSTAL WORKER IMPLICATED AS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE SCENE, DETECTIVE CAT CURIO ALLOWED HERSELF A KISS ON THE CHEEK FROM EACH OF THE RESCUED GO-GO BOYS BEFORE GETTING BACK TO WORK.
BZZZT BZZZT
YESSSS... YESSS... PETTINGS... GIVE PETTINGS TO MEEE...

CAT AND DOG INVESTIGATIONS, THIS IS DETECTIVE CAT CURIO SPEAKING, HOW MAY I DIRECT YOUR CALL?
MISS... CURIO. THANK YOU. THIS IS ELAINE BURROUGHS--
ONE MOMENT.

I'M SO SORRY, I'M HAVING ONE OF MY VISIONS. HOW INCONVENIENT.
CAN I PUT YOU ON WITH MY HUSBAND INSTEAD?

CAT. THIS IS TROY BURROUGHS. HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
WELL, SIR, YOUR WIFE...
SHE'S REALLY SOMETHING, ISN'T SHE?
SIR, IT'S THAT YOU CALLED ME...
YES... LET ME LOVE... LET POOCH TASTE YOU...

SO YOU DID!
LISTEN, PEACHCAKE, MY WIFE AND I--YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF US--ARE FANS OF YOUR LITTLE OPERATION THERE.
HEARD OF--
IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF US, JUST DO A LITTLE GOOGLE. I'LL WAIT.
YOU GOOGLING?
AH, I'LL JUST TELL YOU. ELAINE AND I ARE THE PREMIER PARANORMAL INVESTIGATORS, DEMONOLOGISTS, AND THE ONLY MARRIED GHOST HUNTERS IN THE TRI-COUNTY AREA.
JAMES DEAN?
IS THAT YOU AGAIN?
I'M A MARRIED WOMAN...
WE'VE JUST GOTTEN A CONTRACT TO LOOK INTO THE OLD DEMARCO PLACE, BUT WE CAN'T SEEM TO AGREE ON WHO GETS TO HOLD THE CAMERA AND WHO GETS TO TALK TO IT.
WE NEED ANOTHER SET OF HANDS--ONE THAT ISN'T SQUEAMISH WHEN IT COMES TO THE PARANORMAL.
ARE YOU IN, JELLYBEAN?

UHHH...
PERFECT.
SEE YOU THURSDAY, 7PM.

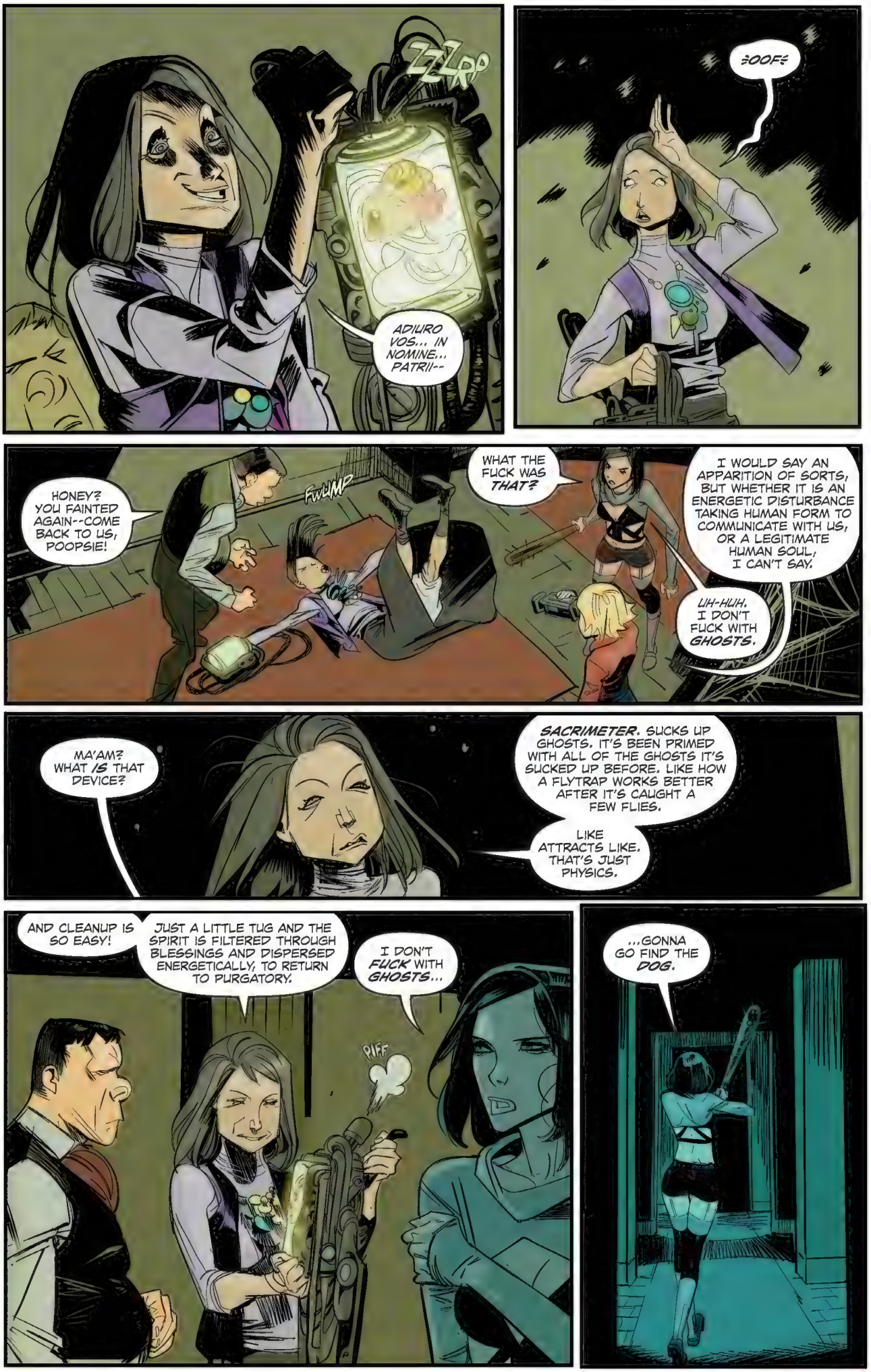
BRING HORS D'OEUVRES!
CLK

I SEE...
WELL, YOU DID THE RIGHT THING BY CALLING US.
WAP
THANK YOU!
I JUST HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS, AND I DON'T WANT TO NOT GO?
OF COURSE WE'RE GOING. IT'S CREEPY, AND POSSIBLY DANGEROUS.
"THAT'S LIKE THE ONLY THING WE HAVE IN COMMON."
WE'RE HERE.
HI, MR. AND MRS. BURROUGHS?
I'M CAT, AND I'VE BROUGHT MY FRIENDS AND CONSULTANTS, VLAD AND CASSIE HACK--
HURK!

ENCHANTÉ, MISS HACK.
LEGGO--
MY MISTAKE!
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOUR HUSBAND WAS HERE WITH YOU!
YOUR WIFE IS A VISION--
HE'S NOT MY HUSBAND, AND HE'S NOT THE ONE WHO TOLD YOU TO NOT TOUCH ME.
I DID THAT.
DARLING?
MY LOVE!
SO THRILLED YOU'VE CONVALESCED. I KNOW YOUR LAST SPIRITUAL CONGRESS WITH RASPUTIN REALLY TOOK IT OUT OF YOU.
THANK YOU MY DARLING.
I SENSED OUR GUEST HAD ARRIVED?
YOU SENSED THAT WE KNOCKED ON THE DOOR.
INDEED, AND SHE EVEN BROUGHT CONSULTANTS!
PRO BONO CONSULTANTS, I'M ASSUMING, SINCE WE WEREN'T ASKED ABOUT HIRING THEM!
CAT...
EXCELLENT.
LET'S BEGIN.

GREETINGS, WE BID YOU WELCOME.
TONIGHT'S RESEARCH? THE ENERGETICALLY TANTALIZING DEMARCO HOUSE.
BUILT IN 1913, IT'S SAID THE HOUSE IS BUILT AT THE INTERSECTION OF A POWERFUL SET OF LEY LINES.
THIS IS SAID TO BE THE REASON FOR THE HOUSE'S FREQUENT APPEARANCE IN REPORTED HAUNTINGS, POSSESSIONS, AND OTHER DISTURBANCES.
IT TAKES EXPERT PARANORMAL INVESTIGATORS AND DEMONOLOGISTS LIKE ELAINE AND MYSELF TO TRAP THESE.
CAT?
WHERE'S YOUR DOG? HE WAS HOLDING THE SPOTLIGHT, AND YOUR BIG FRIEND WAS DOING SOUND...
POOCH? HERE BOY!
I TOLD VLAD TO STAY OUTSIDE AND WAIT IN CASE I NEVER COME BACK.
IT WORKS FOR TINDER DATES AND IT'LL WORK FOR THIS.
SILENCE! AND CUT!
I CAN'T HEAR MY VOICES LIKE THIS.
AND TROY, YOU SAID YOU WERE PAYING SO WE WOULD HAVE THREE-POINT LIGHTING--
GUYS--
OOOUUUUUUUUHHH...

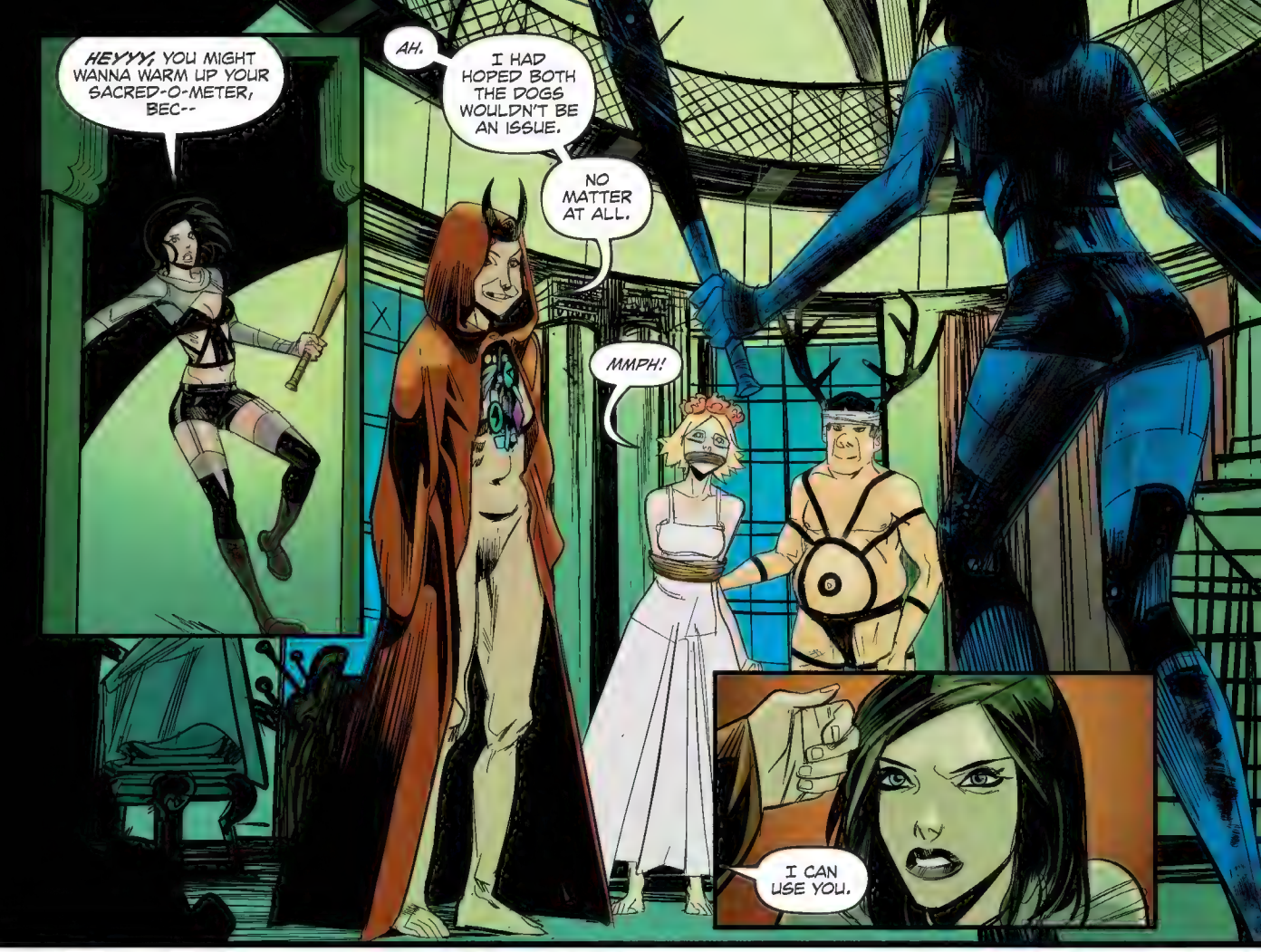
OOOUAAAUUUGH!!
SHE'S AN ANGRY SPIRIT!
NO SHIT!
TROY, THE SACRIMETER!
CAT, ARE YOU GETTING THIS?!
UH HUH! I STILL COULD USE MORE LIGHT, THOUGH.
POOOOCH, WHERE ARE YOU?!
AUOOOWOOOUUUUUGH--
IN NOMINE PATRII, ET FILII, ET SPIRITUS SANCTII!
KZZTKT


ZZLRP
ADIURO VOS... IN NOMINE... PATRII--
OOF
HONEY? YOU FAINTED AGAIN--COME BACK TO US, POOPSIE!
FWUMP
WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT?
I WOULD SAY AN APPARITION OF SORTS, BUT WHETHER IT IS AN ENERGETIC DISTURBANCE TAKING HUMAN FORM TO COMMUNICATE WITH US, OR A LEGITIMATE HUMAN SOUL, I CAN'T SAY.
UH-HUH. I DON'T FUCK WITH GHOSTS.
MA'AM? WHAT IS THAT DEVICE?
SACRIMETER. SUCKS UP GHOSTS. IT'S BEEN PRIMED WITH ALL OF THE GHOSTS IT'S SUCKED UP BEFORE. LIKE HOW A FLYTRAP WORKS BETTER AFTER IT'S CAUGHT A FEW FLIES.
LIKE ATTRACTS LIKE. THAT'S JUST PHYSICS.
AND CLEANUP IS SO EASY!
JUST A LITTLE TUG AND THE SPIRIT IS FILTERED THROUGH BLESSINGS AND DISPERSED ENERGETICALLY, TO RETURN TO PURGATORY.
I DON'T FUCK WITH GHOSTS...
PUFF
...GONNA GO FIND THE DOG.

THE GHOST THING ISN'T A THING, THERE ISN'T REALLY A SPECIFIC REASON FOR IT.
POOOOOCH!
HERE BOY!
THEY'RE JUST ALL INVASIVE AND OVERLY EMOTIONAL IN PUBLIC, IT MAKES ME UNCOMFORTABLE...
MAYBE I'M SAYING MORE ABOUT MYSELF THAN I AM GHOSTS, HERE.
IF YOU COME BACK, I'LL LET YOU EAT FROM DARIO'S LITTER BOX? EHHH?
I CAN'T HIT THEM WITH MY BAT SO I DON'T LIKE THEM, OKAY?
SIMPLE AS THAT.
POOCH!
POOOOOCH?

EHHHH...
HEEHHH...
DRIP
WHY DIDN'T I BRING A LIGHT...
HOLD ON, BOY, I SEE YOU! I'M COMING TOWARDS THE LIGHT!
GOD, I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY.
UH, POOCH OL' BOY?
WANNA...
...GIMME...
...THAT...
...SPOTLIGHT?

OOOOOOOO...
OH NO, FUCK NO, FUCK THIS BLUE PLANET SHIT!
AT LEAST I HOPE IT'S BLUE PLANET.
I DON'T WANNA THINK ABOUT WHAT ELSE YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING WHERE YOU CATCH GIRLS IN YOUR TENTACLES.
GNASH
HUP!
WHAT DID I FUCKING TELL YOU?!
GHOSTS!
WHOOSH
AT LEAST THIS ONE'S DUMB AS A FISH.
HEADS UP!


HEYYY, YOU MIGHT WANNA WARM UP YOUR SACRED-O-METER, BEC--
AH.
I HAD HOPED BOTH THE DOGS WOULDN'T BE AN ISSUE.
NO MATTER AT ALL.
MMPH!
I CAN USE YOU.

YOUR FRIEND IS THE MAIDEN, WITH HER SEEKING NATURE.
WITH MY GIFTS AND NURTURING NATURE, I OF COURSE AM THE MOTHER.

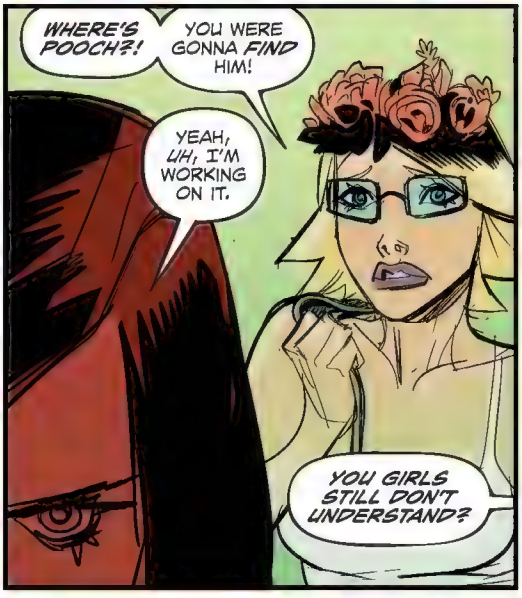
AND YOU, CASSANDRA, PROPHETESS, YOU ARE LACHESIS, THE KILLER, THE DEATH-CRONE--

OOF!

THE FUCK IS THIS?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO CAT?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR DOCUMENTARY?
IT'S ACTUALLY MORE OF A GENRE DOCU-SERIES...

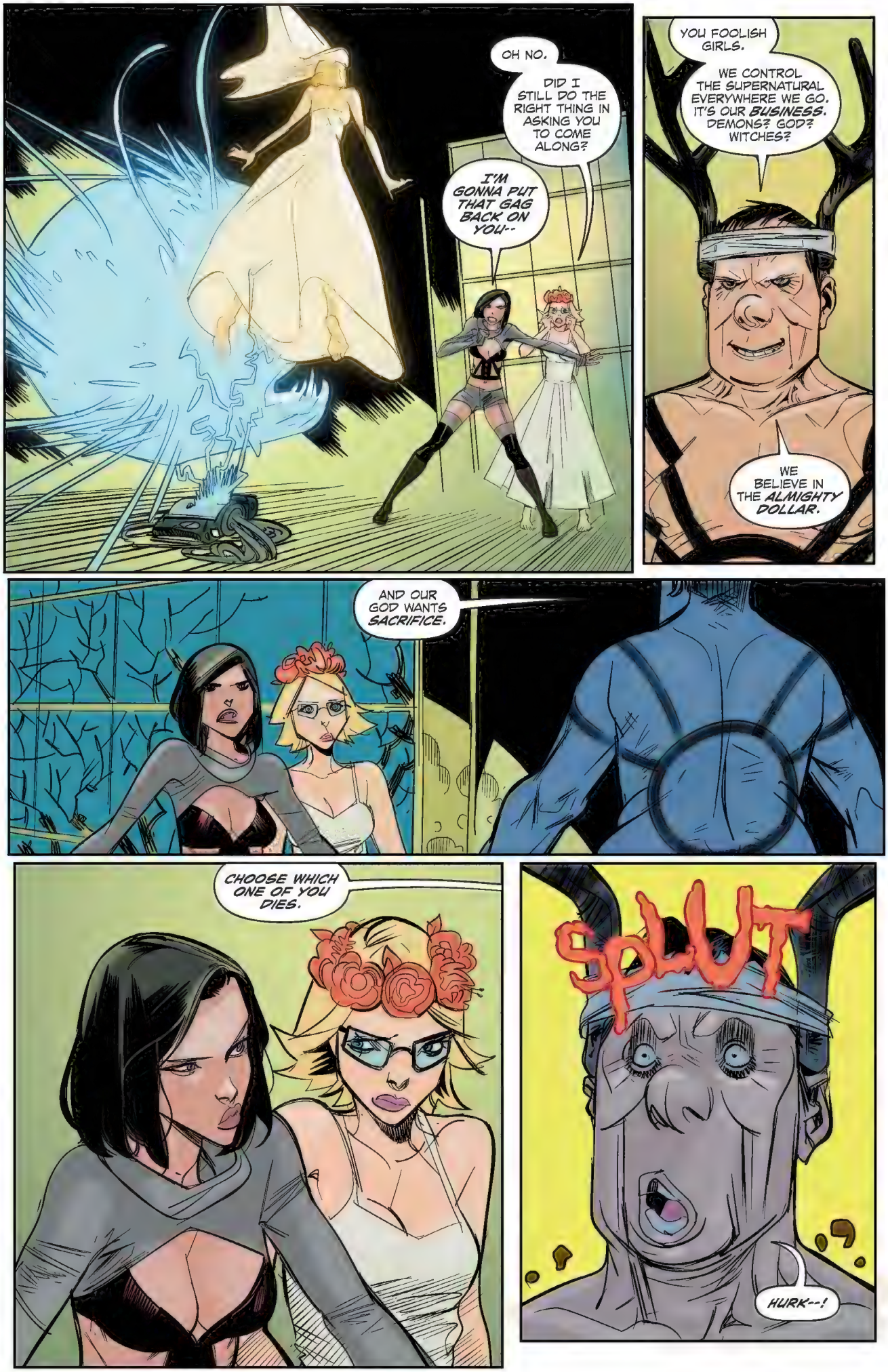
YOU HAVE TEN SECONDS TO EXPLAIN BEFORE I HANG YOU FROM THAT THONG.
EHH... IT'S ELAINE'S IDEA! I'M JUST THE FACE OF THE OPERATION!

UGH, BAD NEWS FOR YOUR OPERATION.
HEY, CAT, THESE ARE STANDARD CREEPS, I'VE DEALT WITH A TON.
LET'S GET YOU OUT BEFORE YOU GET SACRIFICED, HONEY.


WHERE'S POOCH?!
YOU WERE GONNA FIND HIM!
YEAH, UH, I'M WORKING ON IT.
YOU GIRLS STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND?

WE ARE DEMONOLOGISTS.
NOT DEMON HUNTERS. WE INVESTIGATE; NOT EXTERMINATE.
AND IF IT'S SOMETHING USEFUL... WE HAVE THE MEANS TO TRAP IT.
THIS ENTIRE HOUSE LIES ON A POWERFUL SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL ENERGY... AND WE INTEND TO TRAP IT. FOR A RAINY DAY.

KZKT
KZT
AND USE IT FOR OUR OWN NEEDS.

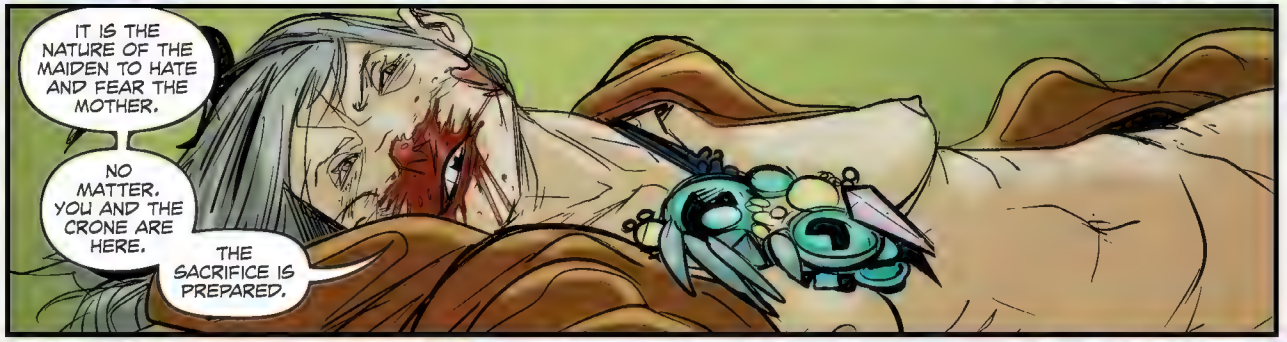

OH NO.
DID I STILL DO THE RIGHT THING IN ASKING YOU TO COME ALONG?
I'M GONNA PUT THAT GAG BACK ON YOU--
YOU FOOLISH GIRLS.
WE CONTROL THE SUPERNATURAL EVERYWHERE WE GO. IT'S OUR BUSINESS. DEMONS? GOD? WITCHES?
WE BELIEVE IN THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR.
AND OUR GOD WANTS SACRIFICE.
CHOOSE WHICH ONE OF YOU DIES.
SPLUT
HURK--!

OH, I HAVE.
WITH SUCH A POWERFUL MAIDEN AND CRONE HERE IN THIS POWERFUL PLACE, WHY WOULD I SACRIFICE EITHER?
THANK YOU, LOYAL SERVANT.
YOU WILL ENTER MY HALLOWED HALL OF HUSBANDS.
WE AREN'T DOING YOUR RITUAL, NO MATTER WHAT!
POOCH RAN AWAY! YOU MADE MY FRIEND--
DOG.
WELL, HE'S REALLY MORE THAN A DOG--
SILENCE!
YOU MUST BE PRESENT--NOT WILLING.

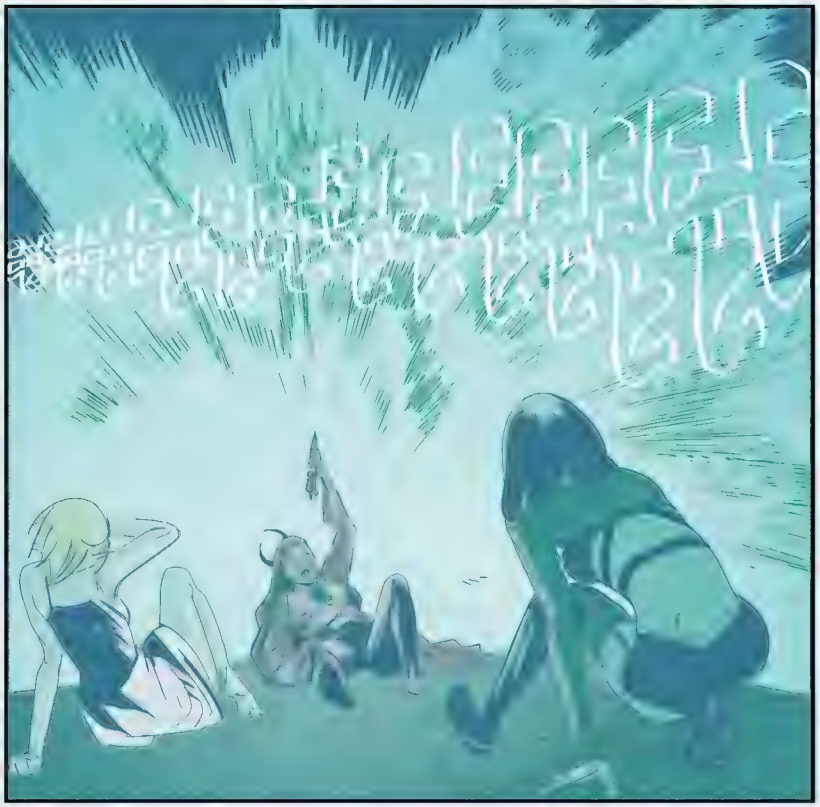
HELL WITH EITHER.
CAT, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
OH, I DON'T THINK SO...
GIRLS, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I HAVE SUCH--
CASSIE!
SIGHTS--ACKK-- TO SHOW US.
YEP-- HURK!-- OFFERING US POWER--
LADY, I MAY NOT HAVE SPELLS, OR A BAT, OR EVEN MY DOG...

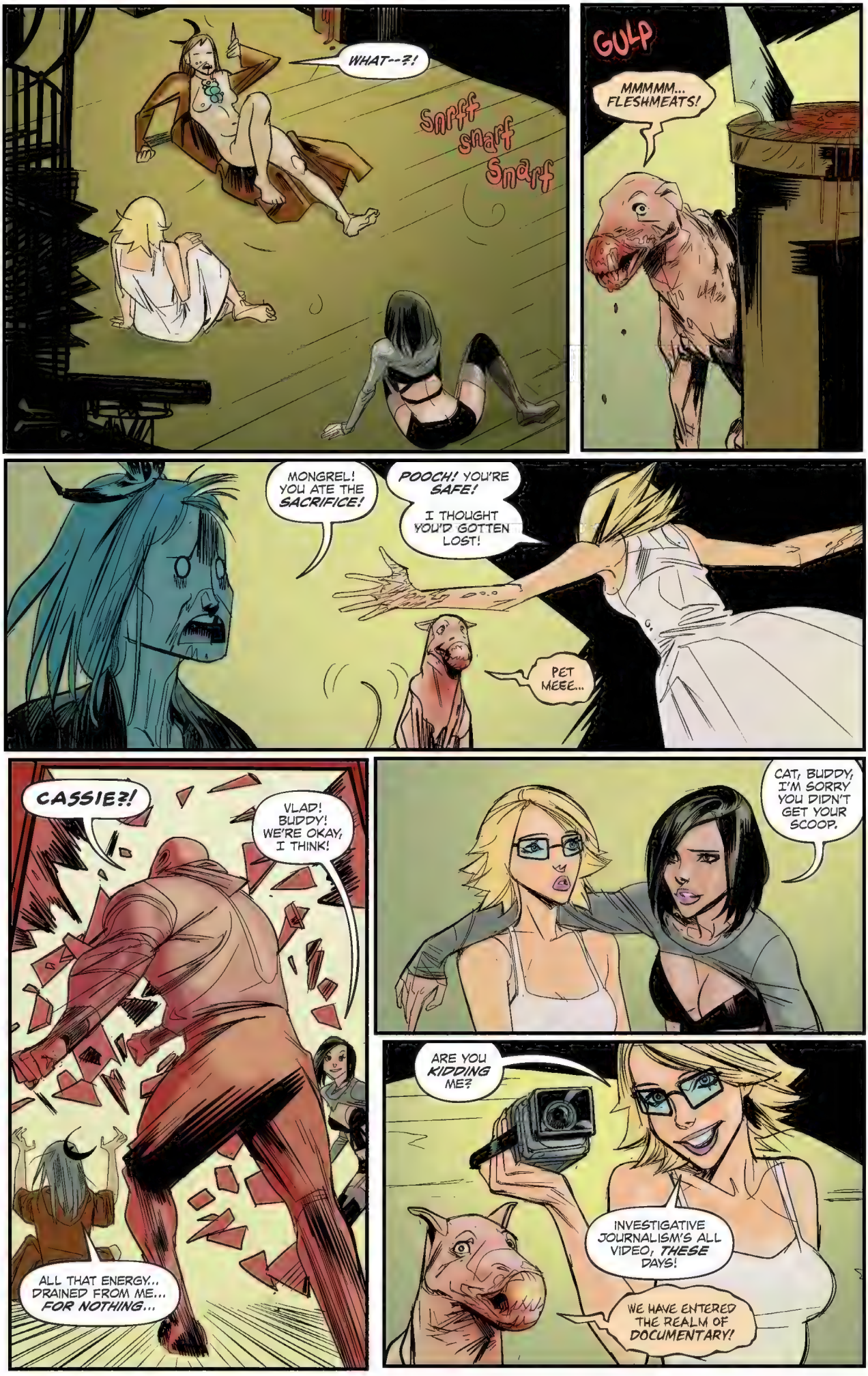
...BUT YOU CAN KISS THESE FISTS!

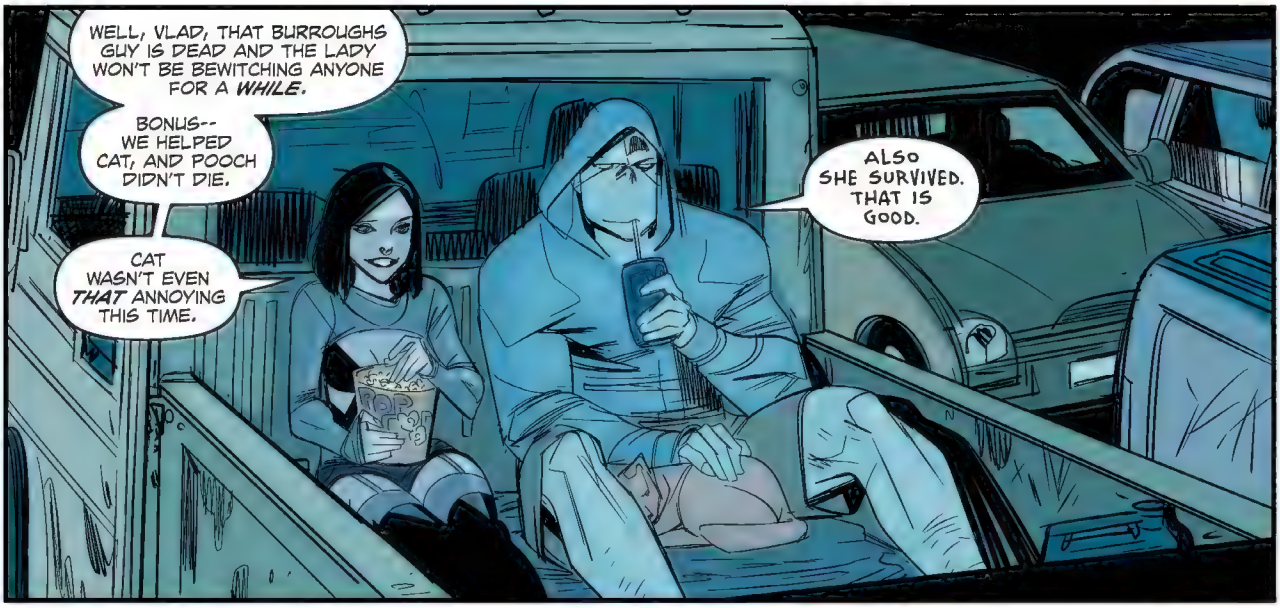
BAP
BAP
CAT--

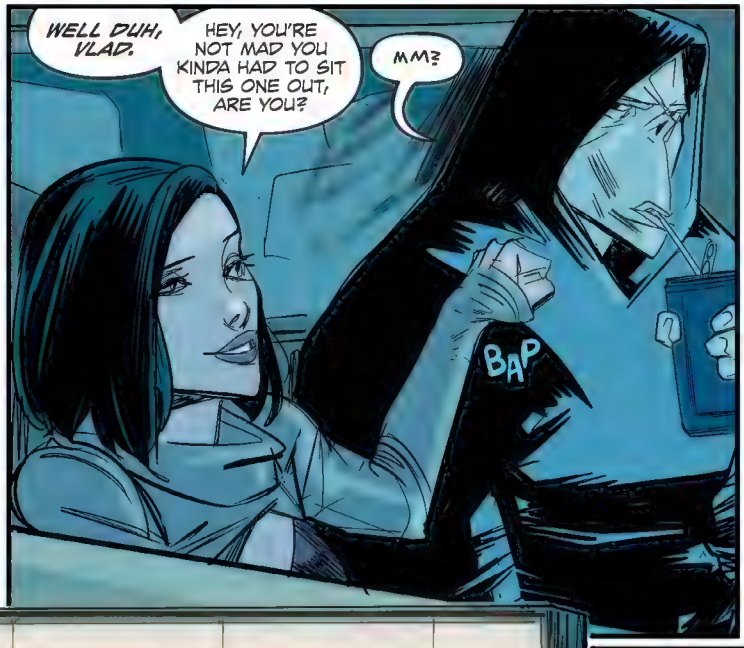

IT IS THE NATURE OF THE MAIDEN TO HATE AND FEAR THE MOTHER.
NO MATTER. YOU AND THE CRONE ARE HERE.
THE SACRIFICE IS PREPARED.

THE RITUAL CAN BEGIN. SOON ALL THE LEY ENERGY OF THE DEMARCO HOUSE AND THESE WOMEN WILL--

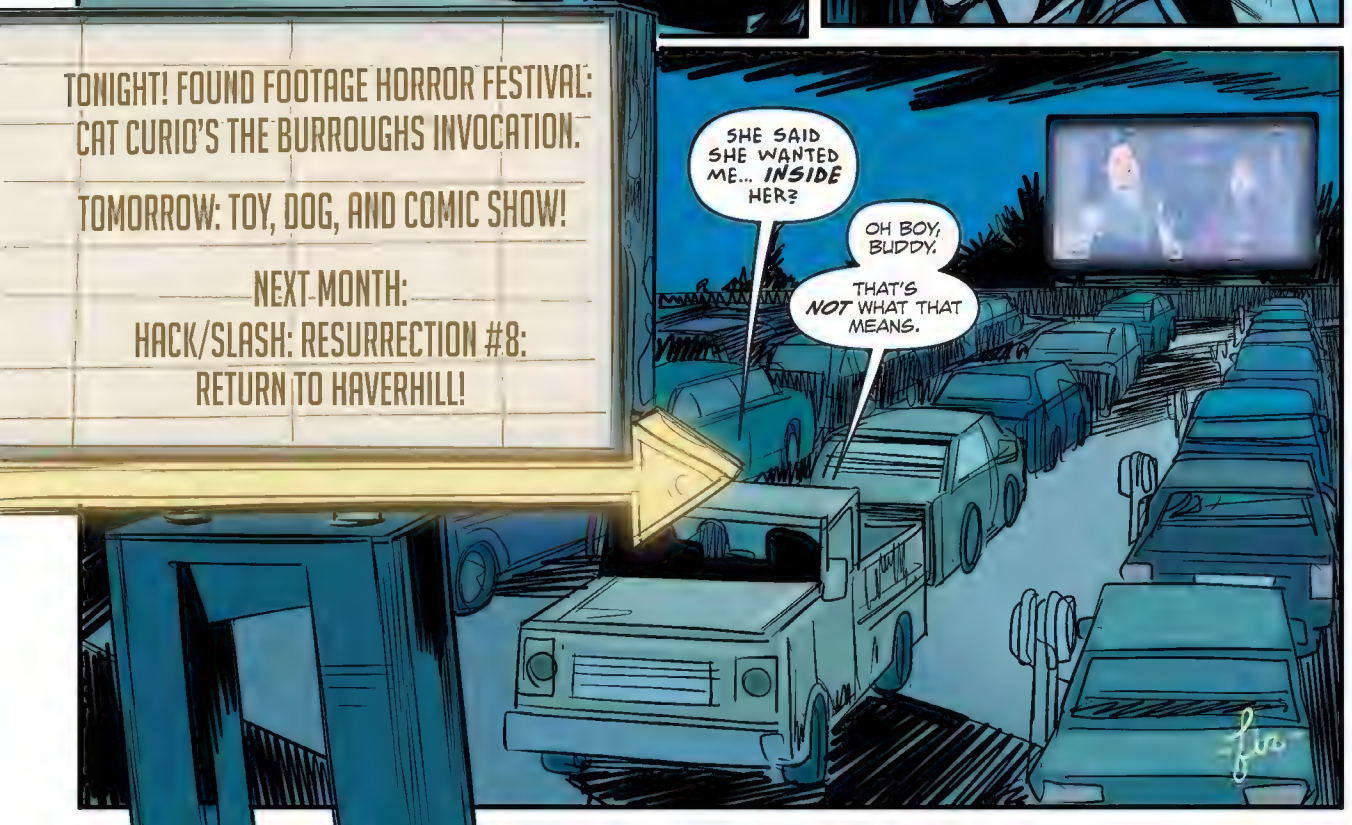



WHAT--?!
snarf snarf Snarf
GULP
MMMMM... FLESHMEATS!
MONGREL! YOU ATE THE SACRIFICE!
POOCH! YOU'RE SAFE!
I THOUGHT YOU'D GOTTEN LOST!
PET MEEE...
CASSIE?!
VLAD! BUDDY! WE'RE OKAY, I THINK!
ALL THAT ENERGY... DRAINED FROM ME... FOR NOTHING...
CAT, BUDDY, I'M SORRY YOU DIDN'T GET YOUR SCOOP.
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM'S ALL VIDEO, THESE DAYS!
WE HAVE ENTERED THE REALM OF DOCUMENTARY!


WELL, VLAD, THAT BURROUGHS GUY IS DEAD AND THE LADY WON'T BE BEWITCHING ANYONE FOR A WHILE.
BONUS-- WE HELPED CAT, AND POOCH DIDN'T DIE.
CAT WASN'T EVEN THAT ANNOYING THIS TIME.
ALSO SHE SURVIVED. THAT IS GOOD.

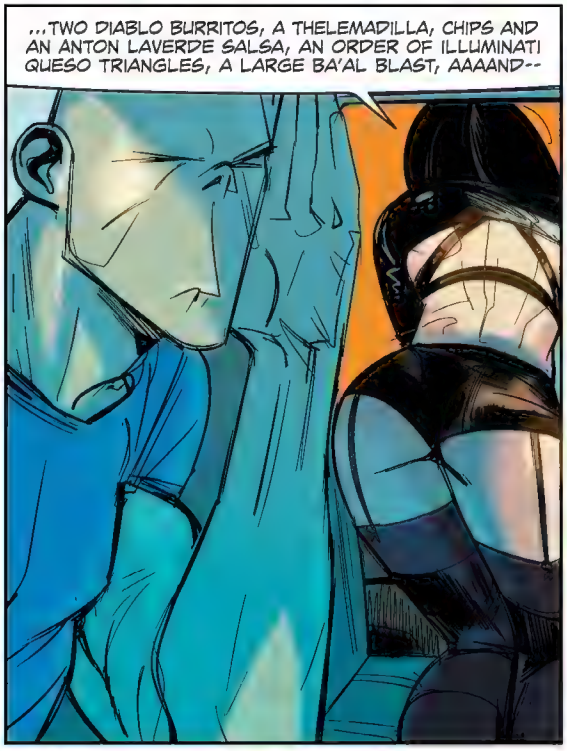

WELL DUH, VLAD.
HEY, YOU'RE NOT MAD YOU KINDA HAD TO SIT THIS ONE OUT, ARE YOU?
MM?
BAP

NNOOO.
THE ELAINE WOMAN WAS GIVING ME THE EVIL EYE.
SHE SAID SHE WANTED ME TO POSSESS HER.
UHHH...

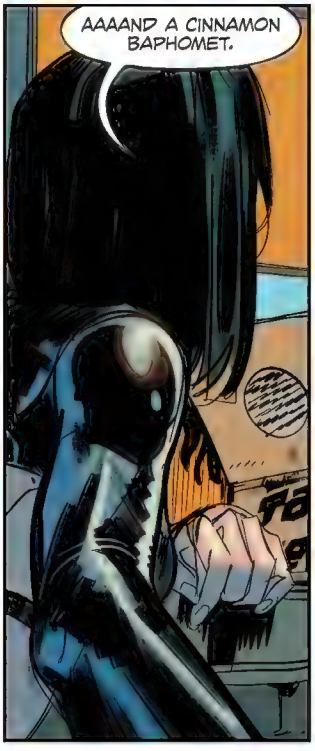

TONIGHT! FOUND FOOTAGE HORROR FESTIVAL: CAT CURIO'S THE BURROUGHS INVOCATION.
TOMORROW: TOY, DOG, AND COMIC SHOW!
NEXT MONTH:
HACK/SLASH: RESURRECTION #8:
RETURN TO HAVERHILL!
SHE SAID SHE WANTED ME... INSIDE HER?
OH BOY, BUDDY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT THAT MEANS.

Hack/Slash Resurrection #8 cover A by **TIM SEELEY** & **ADDISON DUKE**

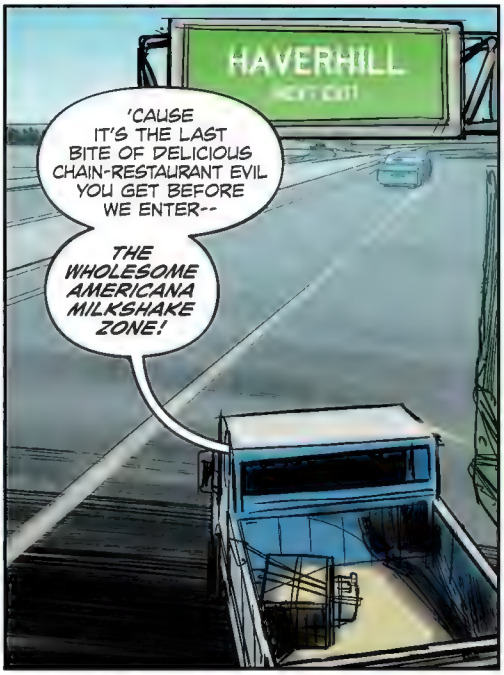
HEY, LEMME GET, UH...
FOOD BREAK.
I'LL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY.
I GET DEMONIC WHEN I'M HUNGRY.


...TWO DIABLO BURRITOS, A THELEMADILLA, CHIPS AND AN ANTON LAVERDE SALSA, AN ORDER OF ILLUMINATI QUESO TRIANGLES, A LARGE BA'AL BLAST, AAAAND--

IF I GET A CINNAMON BAPHOMET WILL YOU EAT HALF?
I CAN NEVER FINISH THE HORNS.
YES. BUT ALSO HOT SAUCE. SEVENTH LEVEL.


AAAAND A CINNAMON BAPHOMET.

SAUCE ME A SACRIFICE, MY DUDE.


HAVERHILL
'CAUSE IT'S THE LAST BITE OF DELICIOUS CHAIN-RESTAURANT EVIL YOU GET BEFORE WE ENTER--
THE WHOLESOME AMERICANA MILKSHAKE ZONE!

HAMBURGERS
HOT DOGS
SHAKES
FRIES
OKAY. HI, BETTER NOW!
MY BELLY IS FULL OF THE PLEASANT SPICY BURN OF THE DAMNED.
AND I'M SEEING ABOUT SOME OLD PLACES. SINCE I'M STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY ABOUT LEAVING PLACES A BURNING HOLE IN THE GROUND.

SOME PLACES ARE TENACIOUS ENOUGH THAT THEY GROW BACK, EVEN AFTER I DO MY VERY BEST TO RUIN THEM.

AFTER YOU, MY DUDE.
HAVERHILL'S ONE OF THOSE PLACES. TIMELESS.
PRISTINE.
NAIVE TO A FAULT.

OR SO IT WAS?
WHAT THE HELL?!
SMELLS LIKE SOUR MILK AND BURNING FAT IN HERE.
REMINDS ME OF HOME.

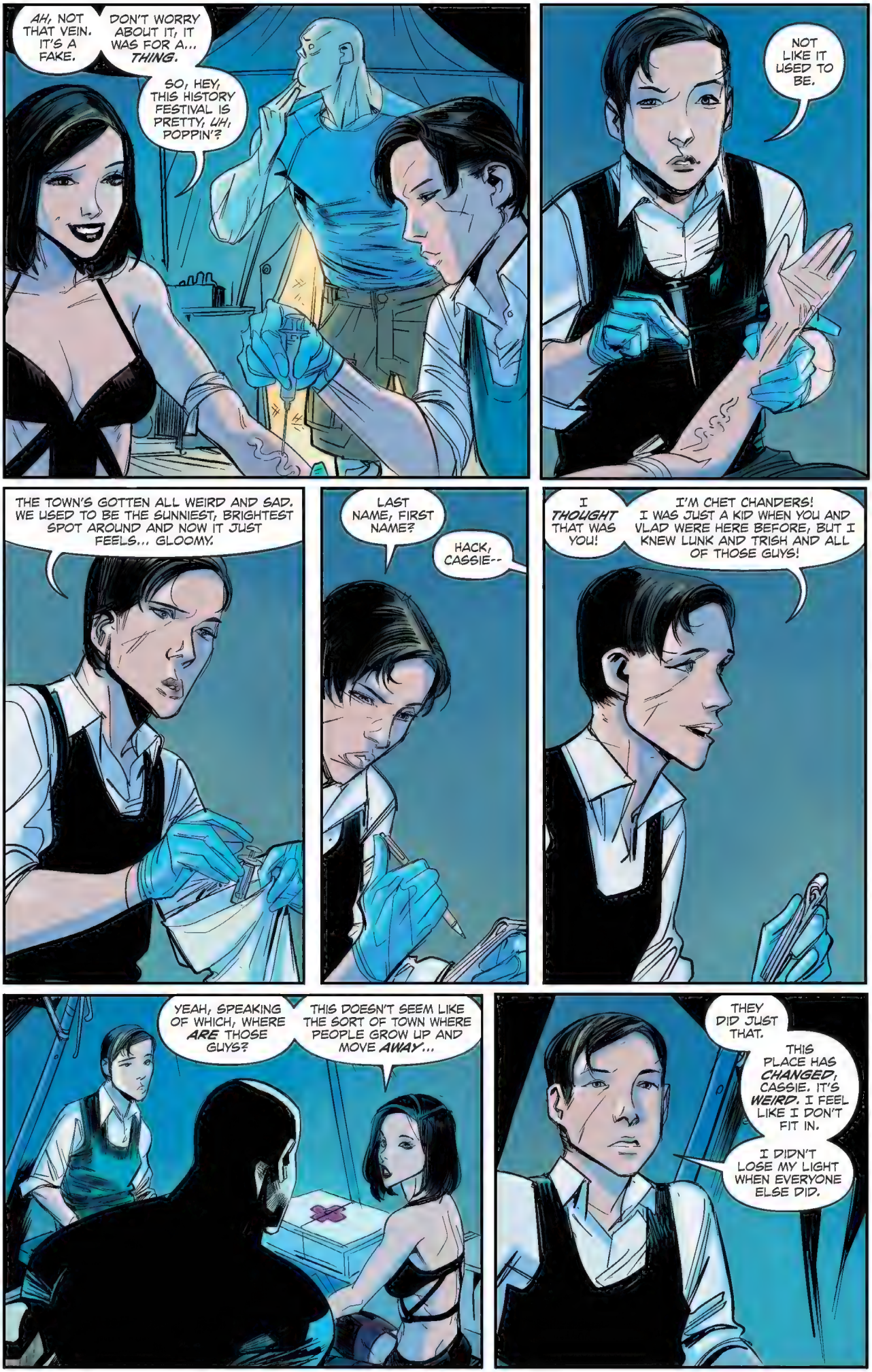
WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS PLACE?
I WOULDN'T DRINK A MILKSHAKE HERE IF YOU PAID ME!
SQUOK
ICE CREAM MACHINE'S BROKEN, NO MILKSHAKES!
I SAID I DIDN'T WANT ONE, JEEZ.
WHERE ARE ALL THE IRRITATING LITTLE MALT-SHOP SWEETIES AND THEIR STUPID ANNOYING LOVE TRIANGLES?
DID YOU PEOPLE SOMEHOW GET AS SHITTY AS THE REST OF THE WORLD?!
WHEN DID YOU START SMOKING INSIDE?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, CITY MOUSE, YOU CAN GIT!
FINE, YOU LOWLIFES AREN'T THE REASON I CAME TO HAVERHILL ANYWAY!
IF I WANTED TO BE DEPRESSED SOMEWHERE THAT SMELLED LIKE GARBAGE, I'D STAY IN MY DAMN TRUCK!
HAVERHILL HISTORY FESTI
PRESENTED BY THE HAVERHILL HIGH STU
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CHANDL
DISCOVER YOUR RO
ND REMEMBER THE F
O MADE HAVERHILL
RE YOUR OWN FAM
THIS SEEMS... WHOLESOME.
HAVERHILL HISTORY FESTIVAL
PRESENTED BY THE HAVERHILL HIGH STUDENT BODY
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CHANDLER FAMILY
DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS
REMEMBER THE FOLKS
HAVERHILL GREAT
N FAMILY!
10-3
YEAH!
ANNOYINGLY SO.
LET'S CHECK IT OUT.
AND REME THE FOLKS
WHO MADE VERHILL GRE
ARE YO N FAMILY!
SATURDAY, 10-3
ENCOURAGED.
ABLE!

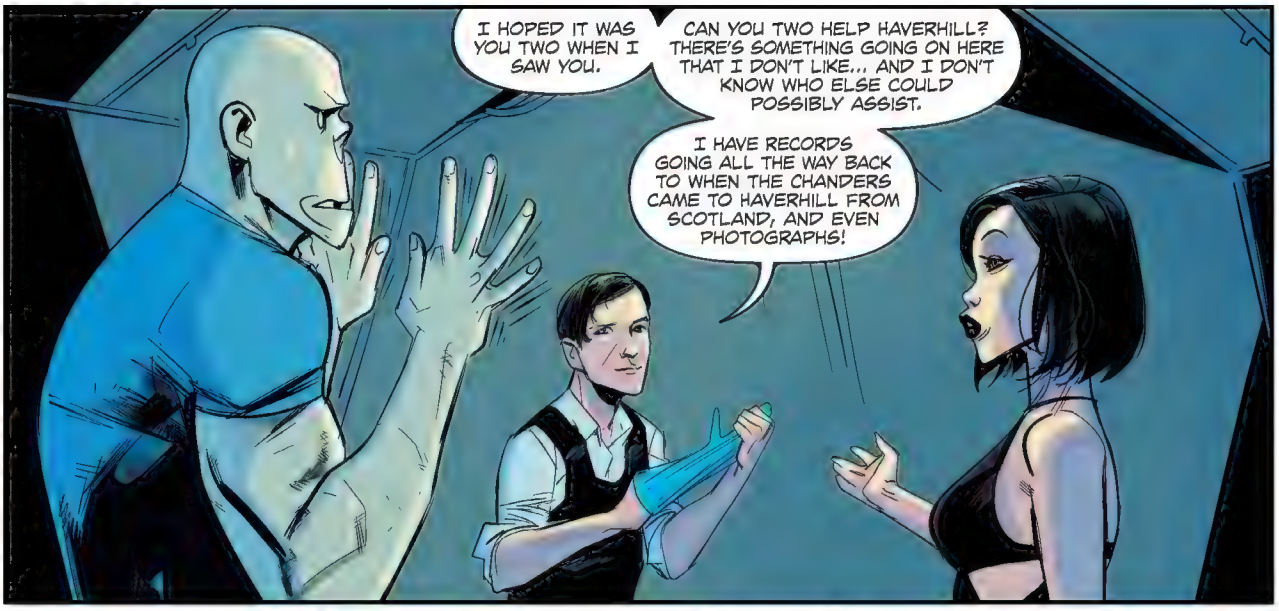
YES. YESSS.
THIS IS THAT BALM FOR THE SOUL I NEED.
THEY'RE SO GOOD AND PURE IT MAKES ME FEEL BAD ABOUT MYSELF.

IT'S PERFECT, VLAD!
LOOK AT THESE NERDS! THEY'RE SO HAPPY!

I DIDN'T RUIN IT, VLAD!
WE LEFT AND IT'S STILL FINE!
UM, EXCUSE ME?

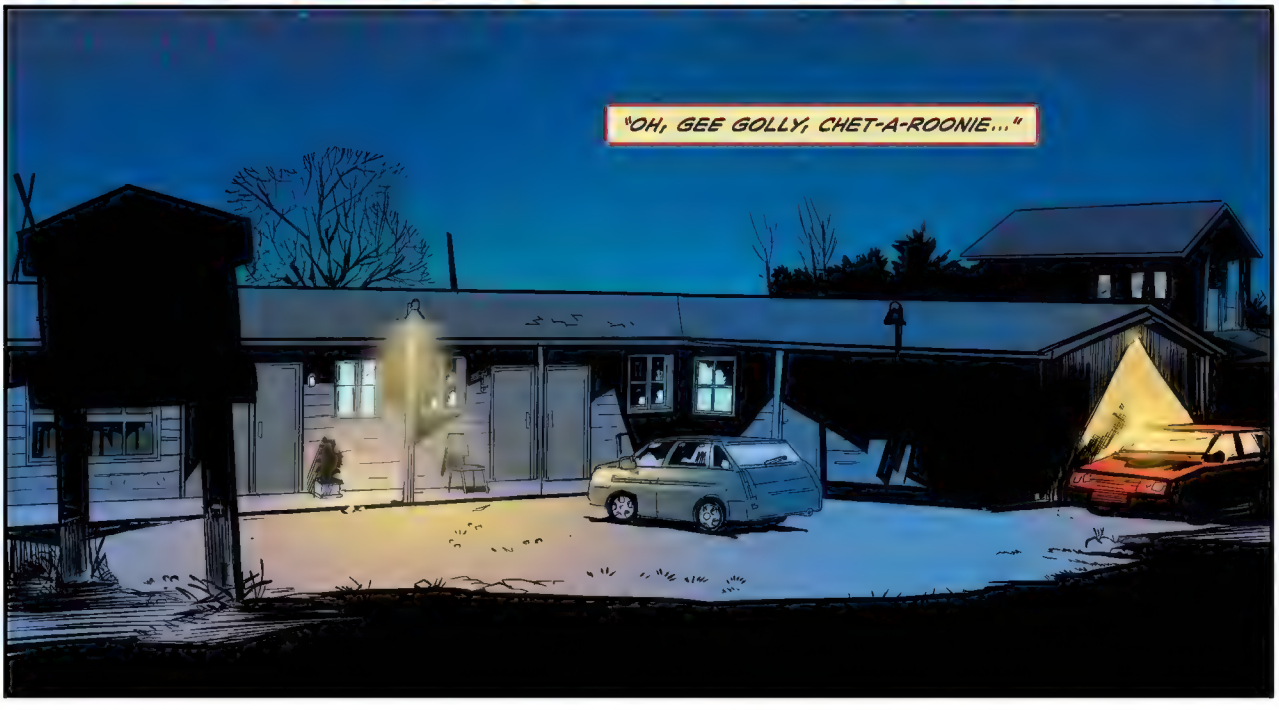
HOLY DISCOUNT BODY SPRAY AND PRESSED KHAKIS, VLAD!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUBMIT YOUR DNA FOR ANCESTRY TESTING?
WE TAKE JUST THE TINIEST AMOUNT OF BLOOD.


AH, NOT THAT VEIN. IT'S A FAKE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, IT WAS FOR A... THING.
SO, HEY, THIS HISTORY FESTIVAL IS PRETTY, UH, POPPIN'?
NOT LIKE IT USED TO BE.
THE TOWN'S GOTTEN ALL WEIRD AND SAD. WE USED TO BE THE SUNNIEST, BRIGHTEST SPOT AROUND AND NOW IT JUST FEELS... GLOOMY.
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME?
HACK, CASSIE--
I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOU!
I'M CHET CHANDERS! I WAS JUST A KID WHEN YOU AND VLAD WERE HERE BEFORE, BUT I KNEW LUNK AND TRISH AND ALL OF THOSE GUYS!
YEAH, SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE ARE THOSE GUYS?
THIS DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE SORT OF TOWN WHERE PEOPLE GROW UP AND MOVE AWAY...
THEY DID JUST THAT.
THIS PLACE HAS CHANGED, CASSIE. IT'S WEIRD. I FEEL LIKE I DON'T FIT IN.
I DIDN'T LOSE MY LIGHT WHEN EVERYONE ELSE DID.


I HOPED IT WAS YOU TWO WHEN I SAW YOU.
CAN YOU TWO HELP HAVERHILL? THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON HERE THAT I DON'T LIKE... AND I DON'T KNOW WHO ELSE COULD POSSIBLY ASSIST.
I HAVE RECORDS GOING ALL THE WAY BACK TO WHEN THE CHANDERS CAME TO HAVERHILL FROM SCOTLAND, AND EVEN PHOTOGRAPHS!

YOU DID SAY YOU WANTED TO NOT LEAVE SMOKING HOLE IN GROUND?
AND THEY WERE SMOKING IN THE DINER. SO.
YOU HAVE LEFT SMOKING HOLE.
YEEEAH...

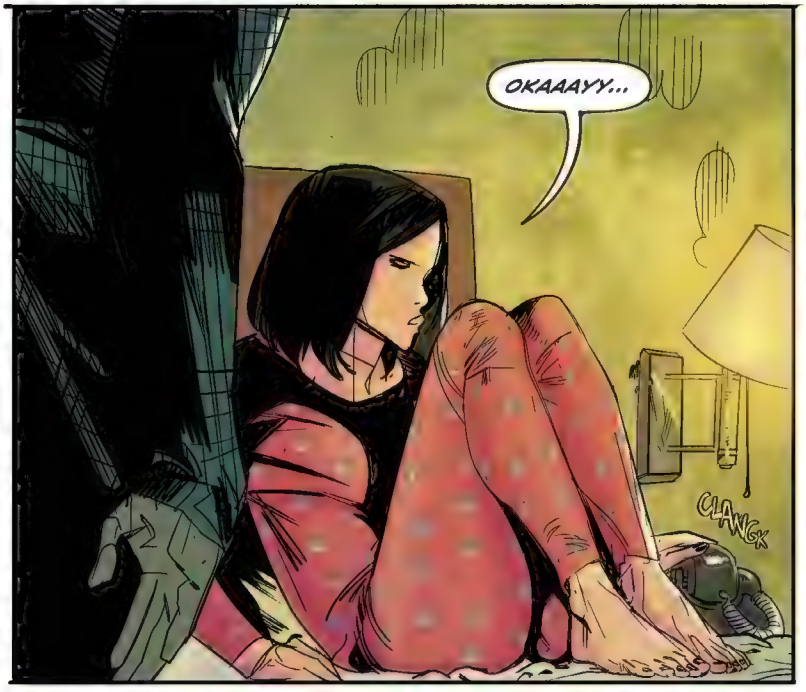
DEAL, CHETTERSON.
VLAD AND I WILL PLUNK DOWN IN A B&B FOR A BIT AND TRY AND GIVE YOUR LITTLE TOWN AN ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT.
BESIDES, WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR THOSE DNA RESULTS!
IT'S SHORT FOR CHETLY, ACTUALLY.
THERE'S A GREAT PLACE I KNOW, RIGHT NEAR THE COUNTY LINE! IT'S NEXT DOOR TO THE OL' HAVERHILL LIBRARY.
GOLLY, THEY'VE EVEN GOT MICROFICHE!


"OH, GEE GOLLY, CHET-A-ROONIE..."

...WHAT A QUAINT-ASS BED AND BREAKFAST YOU'VE LED US TO!
WE HAVE SLEPT IN WORSE.
SURE, BUT NOT HERE.
USUALLY THIS PLACE IS, YANNO. QUAINTER.
RRRING
HELLO...?
CASSIE!
I'VE GOT SOME GREAT NEWS, THERE'S ALREADY A RESULT ON YOUR DNA TEST!
DID YOU JUST.., CALL ME ON THE HOTEL ROOM PHONE?
YEAH, IT'S QUAINTER.
LISTEN, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE SOME RELATIVES NEARBY ON YOUR MOM'S SIDE. CORDERO?
YEAH...?
NOT SHURE WHY THEY'D BE HERE, BUT I GOT A HIT THAT THERE'SH MORE INFO ON THEM...
...IN THE COUNTY LIBRARY, LIKE I WAS SAYING!

MHM? REALLY?
I REALLY DO FEEL LIKE YOU'RE MEANT TO BE HERE, CASSIE!

IT JUST FEELS RIGHT.

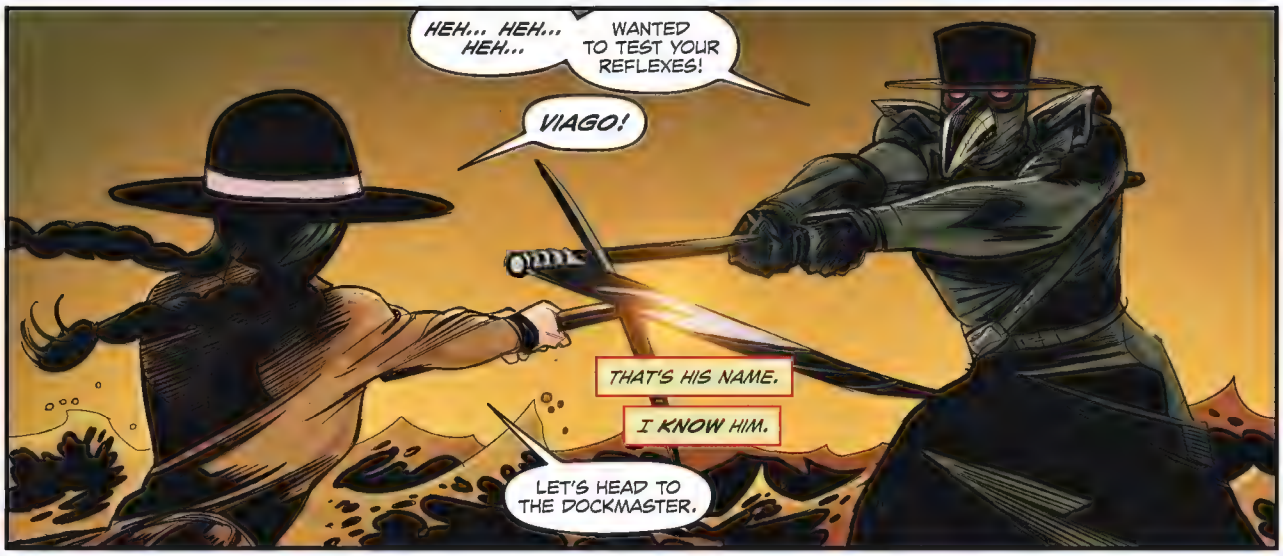

OKAAAYY...
CLANGK

THIS FEELS A BIT... TIDY. NO?
RIGHT?

LIKE, HE HAPPENS TO PUT US UP IN A HOTEL RIGHT NEXT TO THE LIBRARY THAT HAS THE INFO?
WE WILL STAY FOR ONE NIGHT.
THEN WE CAN LEAVE SMOKING HOLE AND GO SOMEPLACE NEW, YES?

WORKS FOR ME.
FLICK

SLOSH SLOSH
SLOSH
EITHER THE WATER IN HAVERHILL IS REAL GROSS...
...OR THIS IS A BONA FIDE SEPIA-TONED HISTORICAL DREAM SEQUENCE.
COMPLETE WITH HISTORICALLY ACCURATE PAINFUL UNDERGARMENTS.
CORDERO!
THERE'S THAT NAME AGAIN.
HUH?
SHNK


HEH... HEH... HEH...
WANTED TO TEST YOUR REFLEXES!
VIAGO!
THAT'S HIS NAME.
I KNOW HIM.
LET'S HEAD TO THE DOCKMASTER.

I HAVE BUSINESS AT THE DOCKS.
I'M SURE I DO, IN THAT WAY THAT YOU ONLY KNOW THESE THINGS IN DREAMS.

NOK
NOK
NOK

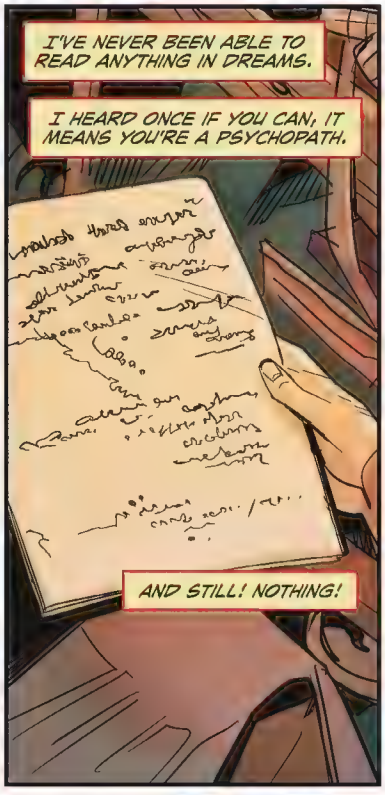
'LO.
I HAVE BUSINESS HERE, I THINK.
LAST NAME?
CORDERO. THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW.
THAT'S ALL I KNOW, SO I HOPE IT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW.

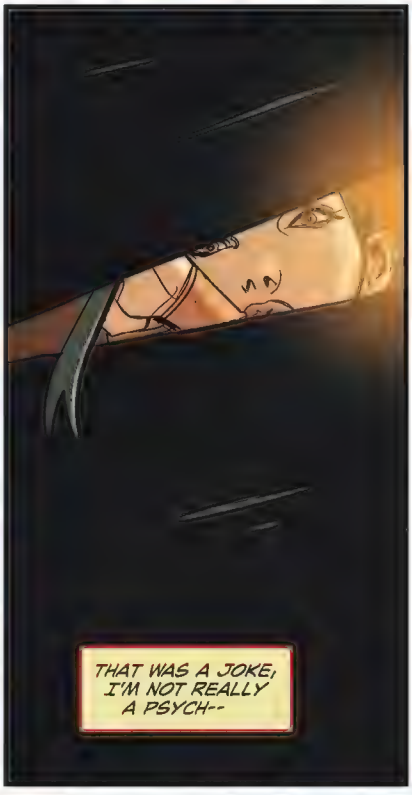
WANT I SHOULD BREAK IT--
CHUK-ATCH

C'MON IN.

MIND THE CANDLES.
CORDERO?

HERE YOU GO.


I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO READ ANYTHING IN DREAMS.
I HEARD ONCE IF YOU CAN, IT MEANS YOU'RE A PSYCHOPATH.
AND STILL! NOTHING!

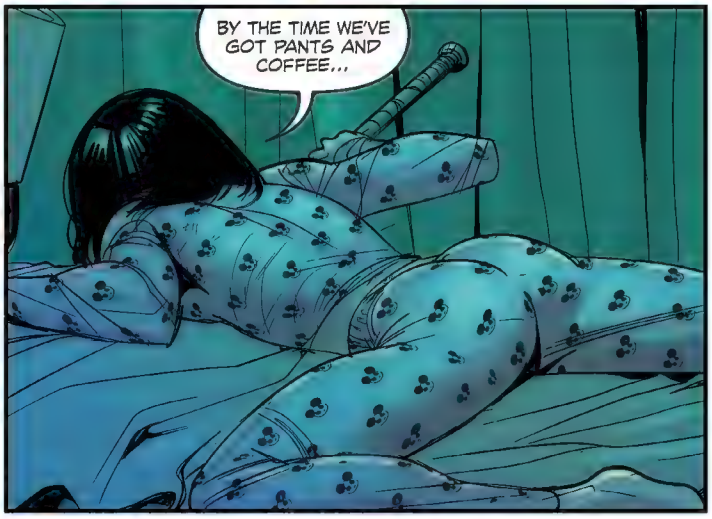

THAT WAS A JOKE, I'M NOT REALLY A PSYCH--

AAAAAAAA--

--AAAAAAH!
AAAAAH!!

WHAT, UH--
=GHK= WHAT TIME IS IT?
UH...

FIVE?
YES? FIVE.
GET DRESSED.


BY THE TIME WE'VE GOT PANTS AND COFFEE...

"...THE LIBRARY WILL BE OPEN."
OKAY, COLDWELL, COLON?
VLAD, THIS DUDE'S LAST NAME WAS COLON...

FOUND IT!
COLON
CORDERO

HERE IT IS...
ONE CHRISTIANA CORDERO.
RECEIVING A SHIPMENT FROM PORT OF LEITH, EDINBURGH, FROM AN EARL OF CHANDERS...
VLAD, WHAT THE FUCK?
THIS IS OFFICIALLY PERSONALLY WEIRD.
MAYBE IS WHY HE KNEW ABOUT YOU.
EXPLAINS THINGS.
BUT THEN WHY'D WE COME HERE UNLESS WE WERE CALLED BY CREEPY VAMPIRE MAGIC?
THEY CAN DO THAT, YOU KNOW.
I THINK.
IF WE LEAVE NOW, WE'VE GOT A FEW HOURS 'TIL THE SUN COMES UP.
LOCAL HUNTER CARAWAY CORDE... TALKS A BIG GAME, DESPITE DELIVERING NO KILLS.
"I can't show you the bodies, they turned to ash, now get offa my lawn,"

"I'VE GOT A HUNCH ABOUT THAT PIER."
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WATER...
I MEAN, BESIDES THOSE CREEPY DEEP ONES THAT WERE DOWN HERE LAST TIME WE WERE IN TOWN--
NO SWIMMING
AAAH!
AAHAHA, KILL IT, VLAD, FUCKING KILL IT!!
HNNGH!
HISSSSS!
CRUNCH

THESE ARE... DEFINITELY NOT THE DEEP ONES FROM THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE.
SPLASH
NO SWIMMING
WHAP
RRRRREEEH!
DO NOT SNEAK UP ON ME!
SPLAK
VLAD!
EXECUTE TWO SCOOPS OF SHRAPNEL!
EHHH...

NO SWIMM
EHHH...
SSSSSSS
WUNK
THUKK
SSSSSS
SSS...
I'M CALLING HER.
CALLING WH--
OH! OH, YES, GOOD, OKAY.
RRRING

DARK DESIRES, THANKS FOR CALLING. YOU'VE GOT VAMPI, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
HELLO? THE FUCK?
OH, HEY, CASS!
SORRY, YOU CAUGHT ME WORKING ON MY RADIO SHOW, I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF MY CALLERS.
RADIO? ISN'T THAT A LITTLE... OUTDATED?
HONEY, I BOUNCE AROUND IN A CHERRY RED SLINGSHOT AND CHIPPENDALE'S CUFFS.
YOU THINK I GIVE A BAT'S ASS ABOUT OUTDATED?
FAIR.
HEY, LISTEN, ARE WE COOL? CAUSE I COULD USE SOME HELP.
I KEEP ENDING UP OUT OF MY ELEMENT LATELY. GHOSTS. VAMPIRES?
I'M SO EXCITED I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO BE UPSET YOU DIDN'T CALL ME ABOUT THE GHOSTS.
SEE YOU SOON! CIAO!
WAIT, I DIDN'T--
WE DIDN'T TELL HER WHERE WE WERE?

CREEEAK
CLICK
HI, GORGEOUS.
MISSED YOU.
SHE'S AT THE LIBRARY.
WE'VE GOT TIME.
SNAP

I'VE NEVER BEEN MUCH OF A BOOKWORM.
BUT IT TURNS OUT IT'S A FANTASTIC WAY TO NOT BE ALONE WITH YOUR OWN THOUGHTS.
CASSIE?
ANYWAY, THOUGHTS ARE OVERRATED.
BE WITH YOU SHORTLY.
I HOPED YOU'D COME. I KNOW IT'S EARLY.
HAVERHILL HIGH
BUT I NEEDED YOU.
CHET!
UH, YEAH. DID... DID YOU CALL ME?
I DIDN'T EVEN CHECK MY PHONE, I JUST HAD A FEELING--
YOU'RE SO INTUITIVE...
...AND BEAUTIFUL...
HEY, SORRY TO INTERRUPT, I KNOW BRAINS AREN'T USEFUL AT MOMENTS LIKE THIS--
AND WARM...
LITERALLY NO ONE HAS EVER CALLED US WARM--

...UNLESS THEY WERE TRYING TO EAT US.
HISSSS!!
=HGK!=
PUT HER DOWN, PRIMETIME!
CASSIE!

SSSSSS...
OKAY, IF I'M BEING HONEST, I'M GLAD VLAD AND VAMPI SHOWED UP.

I DON'T MAKE MY BEST DECISIONS WHEN I'VE GOT A CUTIE BREATHING DOWN MY NECK.

BECAUSE, LIKE...
...WHAT A WAY TO GO.

FAH!
OOF!
CASSIE!

CORDERO WITCH!

YOUR COWARD'S CURSE KEEPS ME FROM TEARING INTO YOU LIKE YOU DESERVE.

HURK!
THEN BITE ME.
GLADLY.
AAUGH!
HEY!
I WAS SAVING THAT!
fbpt!
DARIO!
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU MOVE THAT FAST, BUDDY!

HHHHH!
HHHHHHH!!
?!
frrOw!
SSSS...
HEY!
ASSHOLE, THAT'S MY CAT--!
UM...
WHUMP

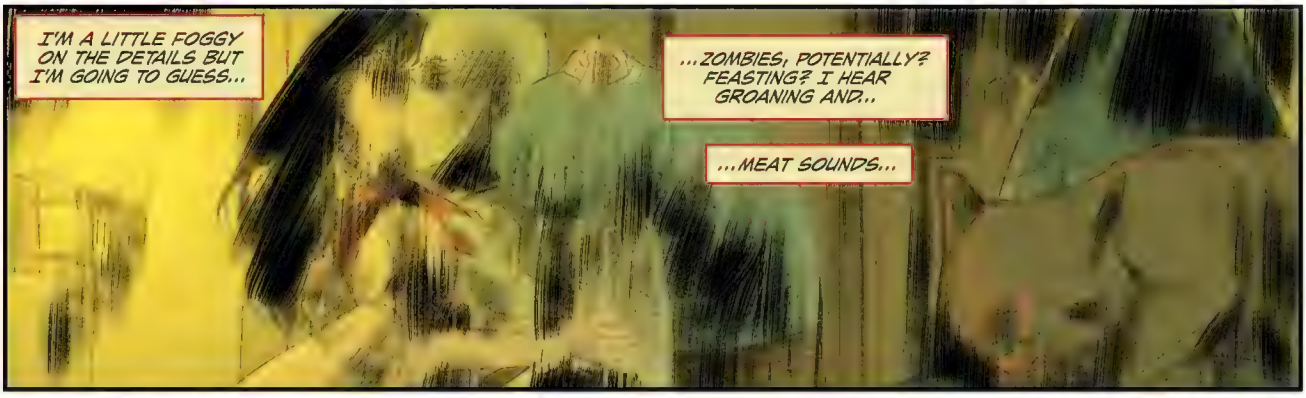
HAVERHILL
COUNTY LINE
I MAY NOT HEAR YOU...
...AND I MAY NOT SEE YOU...
...BUT I SURE AS *HELL* CAN FEEL THE LITTLE HAIRS ON THE BACK OF MY NECK WHEN YOU'RE AROUND, BLOODSUCKER.
SHUT-EYE
YOU STARTED THIS.
YOU HUNTED *ME.*
COME OVER THIS *COUNTY LINE* AND HUNT ME, *CORDERO.*

OR INVITE ME IN.
UNLESS YOU CAN'T TAKE ME WITHOUT YOUR LITTLE FRIEND VIAGO?
HE WAS DELICIOUS.
UGH!
EAT THIS!
HSSS--
THUK
HEH.
DON'T THINK I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE STAKES...
HUP!
...THE HOLY WATER...

OOF!
IT'S NOT ENOUGH THAT YOU WON'T INVITE ME INTO YOUR TOWN, IS IT?
YOU HAVE TO COME HUNT ME HERE.
LISTEN, CHANDERS.
IF YOU THINK I'M JUST GONNA DIVE RIGHT BACK OVER THAT COUNTY LINE SO YOU CAN'T TOUCH ME...
...YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT--
A SHAME I HAVE TO HAVE YOU FOR DESSERT, MISS CORDERO.
YOU'RE SO DAMN BITTER--
WAIT--!

DON'T!
WHY SHOULDN'T I?
YOU CAN HAVE HAVERHILL.
NICE TRY.
YOU CAN'T UNINVITE ME, AND I DON'T TRUST YOU FOR A SECOND.
I'LL LEAVE.
GIVE ME 'TIL SUNDOWN TOMORROW AND I'LL GET OUT.
HAVERHILL ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE--
THEY DON'T WANT A WOMAN LIKE ME AROUND ANYMORE.
IF HAVERHILL ISN'T MY HOME, I CAN'T KEEP YOU OUT OF IT.
I YIELD, CHANDERS. TAKE YOUR POUND OF FLESH AND LEAVE ME MINE. FEED ON WHOEVER YOU WANT, BUT LEAVE MY FAMILY ALONE.
AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE BITTER BEFORE...
NOTHING'S MORE BITTER THAN A COWARD!
AAAH-HAHAHA HAAA!

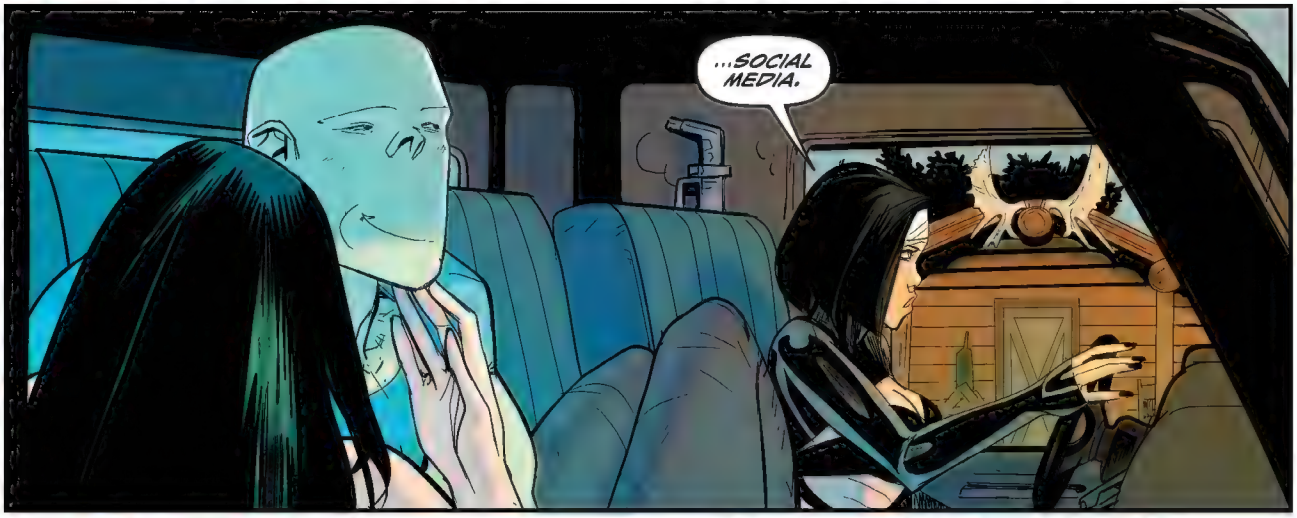
MMMH...
MMMM...
I'VE LEARNED TO LISTEN BEFORE OPENING MY EYES.
THIS HAPPENS TO ME MORE OFTEN THAN YOU'D THINK.


I'M A LITTLE FOGGY ON THE DETAILS BUT I'M GOING TO GUESS...
...ZOMBIES, POTENTIALLY? FEASTING? I HEAR GROANING AND...
...MEAT SOUNDS...

JESUS CHRIST, YOU ANIMALS!

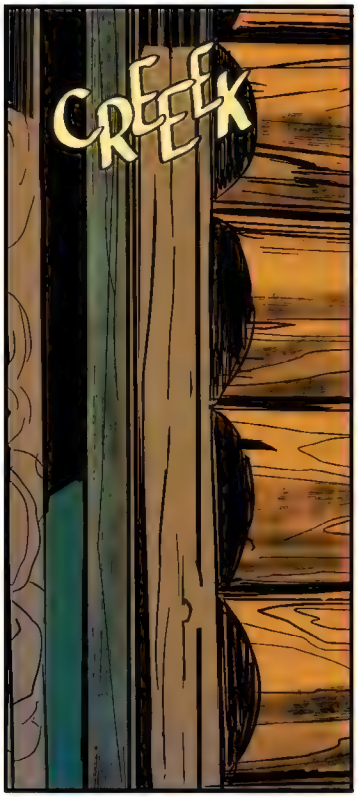
MY BODY WASN'T EVEN COLD YET!

MORNING, SUNSHINE.
CARE TO JOIN US?
CASSIE!
YOU ARE AWAKE!
NO.
BE CAREFUL, YOU HAVE HEAD WOUND--
WELL, AT LEAST I KEPT MY SHIT TOGETHER IN FRONT OF A KITTY CAT.
OKAY, YOU KNOW WHAT?
IT'S A REFLEX. ALL VAMPIRES HAVE IT. CATS ARE CREEPY.
BESIDES, BIG BAD VLAD WAS HERE TO SAVE US.
AFTER CHET ALSO RAN FROM THE KITTY CAT. YES.
I HAD ANOTHER OF THOSE DREAMS, ABOUT MY MOM'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY.
I'M PRETTY SURE CHET IS SENDING THEM TO ME.
AND THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE TO FIND YOUR OLD, WEIRD, RECLUSIVE, POSSIBLY RACIST RELATIVES...
Cordero


...SOCIAL MEDIA.

I WAS ABLE TO USE THE DNA TEST RESULTS AND SOME NON-SPECIFIC SEARCH-ENGINE-ING TO FIND THE ADDRESS OF MY CLOSEST LIVING RELATIVE-- CARAWAY CORDERO.

THESE THINGS, IT'S A LITTLE SCARY WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THEM, YOU KNOW?
I MEAN, I LITERALLY HYPNOTIZE PEOPLE TO GET WHAT I WANT, SO...
NOK
NOK


CREEEK

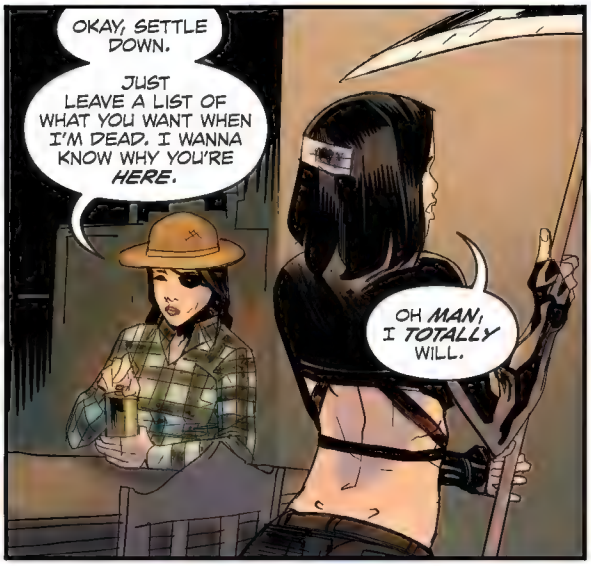
I SAID TO LEAVE THE CASHEW CHICKEN OUTSIDE AND GO SILENTLY.
WE HAVE NO CHICKEN.

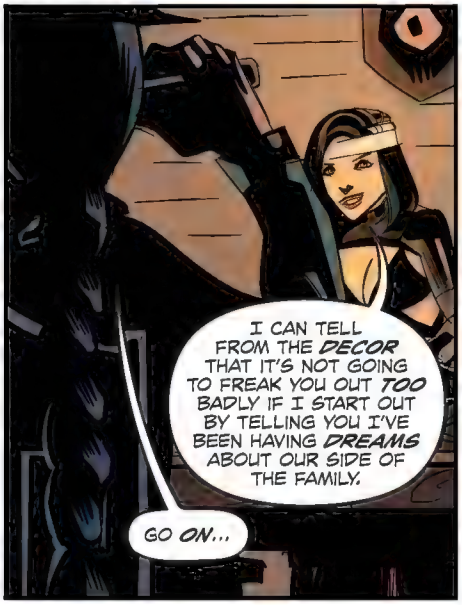
I HAVE A ROOT BEER FLAVORED BARREL CANDY?
WAIT--
I THINK I'M RELATED TO YOU--!

I MEAN, I'M PRETTY SURE WE'RE RELATED, ACTUALLY.
THOUGH, I'M SURPRISED BY THE RECLUSIVE ATTITUDE.
I MEAN, YOU HAVE AN INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT.
I DON'T LIKE COMPANY.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T HAVE INTERESTS.
:SNF:
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
I'M DE--
DELILAH'S DAUGHTER, YEAH, I CAN TELL.
YOU C'MON IN.

SORRY ABOUT THE *MESS.*
ARE YOU *KIDDING?*

THIS PLACE IS *AMAZING!*


OKAY, SETTLE DOWN.
JUST LEAVE A LIST OF WHAT YOU WANT WHEN I'M DEAD. I WANNA KNOW WHY YOU'RE *HERE.*
OH *MAN,* I *TOTALLY* WILL.


I CAN TELL FROM THE *DECOR* THAT IT'S NOT GOING TO FREAK YOU OUT *TOO* BADLY IF I START OUT BY TELLING YOU I'VE BEEN HAVING *DREAMS* ABOUT OUR SIDE OF THE FAMILY.
GO *ON...*

AND IF I THINK I'M BEING SENT SAID DREAMS BY A LOCAL VAMPIRE WHO HAS SOME SORT OF *CURSE-GRUDGE* AGAINST OUR FAMILY?
OF *COURSE* I'D BELIEVE YOU--

I'M THE ONE THAT *CURSED* 'IM.

BULLSHIT.
YOU'D HAVE TO BE, LIKE, A HUNDRED.
AND I SAW HOW MY MOM AGED, OKAY?
TERRIBLY. I'M GONNA HAVE A HUNCHBACK IF I LIVE TO BE THIRTY.
BELIEVE ME OR DON'T, CASSANDRA.
BUT YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT THIS JOB...
...HUNTING LIKE WE DO...
...HAS A WAY OF AGING US IN SOME WAYS, AND KEEPING US YOUNG IN OTHERS.
HEAR, HEAR!
HONESTLY? I LOVE HER.
WELL, GORGEOUS, WHEN YOU GET TO BE MY AGE--
ACTUALLY I'M, LIKE, A THOUSAND, BUT THAT'S REALLY SWEET OF YOU.
YEAH, YEAH, SHE'S PRETTY COOL, EXCEPT--

EXCEPT FOR THE PART WHERE SHE SOLD OUT THE REST OF HAVERHILL TO A VAMPIRE TO SAVE HER OWN ASS.
IS THAT WHAT YOUR LITTLE DREAM TOLD YOU?
SURE DID.
YOUR MAMA'S MAMA WAS A LITTLE GIRL THEN.
I WANTED TO PROTECT HER, AND I DID.
BY LETTING A VAMPIRE TEAR ASS AROUND TOWN?
THAT TOWN DID FINE WITHOUT ME!
CLEARLY THERE HASN'T BEEN AN ISSUE!
WELL, THERE IS NOW!
WHEREVER THE FUCK THIS DUDE HAS BEEN, HE'S BACK NOW, AND THE DINER SMELLS LIKE OLD NASTY MILK AND ALL THE CUTE LITTLE GOODY TWO-SHOES KIDS LEFT.
IT'S WEIRD AND FUCKED UP AND I JUST WANNA FIX IT!
HUP!

CURSE WON'T BE AN ISSUE IF THE VAMPIRE'S DEAD. TAKE 'IM OUT.
I'VE GOT HOLY WATER, BUT UNLESS YOU'RE WAY CHURCHIER'N YOU LOOK, NOTHING THAT'S A MATTER OF FAITH WILL REALLY HURT HIM.
YOU'LL WANNA STICK TO SUPERSTITIONS, SUNLIGHT, AND THINGS DESIGNED TO MAKE HIM MOST UNCOMFORTABLE.
THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT STAKES IS THAT EVEN IF THEY DON'T DO ANYTHING FANCY TO A VAMPIRE, YOU'RE STILL STABBIN' A GUY IN THE CHEST.
ANYTHING IS A STAKE. AN ARROW IS A STAKE. A CHAIR LEG IS A STAKE.
BE CREATIVE.
AND MAKE IT HURT.
HOLD ON, YOU'RE NOT COMING WITH US?
OH HELL NO, I'M RETIRED. NO THANKS.
ANYTHING I KILL I GOTTA HANG ON MY WALL, AND I REFUSE TO LOOK AT THAT MOTHERFUCKER AGAIN.
BUT HAVE FUN, AND REMEMBER...
...IT'S NOT SO MUCH A CURSE AS A RESTRAINING ORDER, SO IF YOU ATTACK HIM FIRST, DEAL'S OFF!
SLAM
BYE!

"OKAY, CHET WILL DEFINITELY BE HERE."
TONIGHT: HAVERHILL HERITAGE DANCE!

OH YEAH, VAMPIRES LOVE PROMS.
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO WEAR THIS DRESS SINCE MANSFIELD AND LAVEY'S SECRET WEDDING!
WELL ALSO, HE'S GOT EVERYONE THINKING HE'S SOME SORT OF GOODY TWO-SHOES NERD.

HE'S GOTTA KEEP UP APPEARANCES AMIDST THE MORTALS.
HEY, VLAD, SPEAKING OF NERD...

WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE WE'RE ATTENDING THE DANCE, INSTEAD OF CRASHING IT TO SLAY A VAMPIRE?
VAMPI WANTED TO SEE ME IN A BOW TIE.
SHE SAID I WAS "JUICY."

OH, COOL, GREAT.
YOU AND VAMPI CAN GO GET HANDSY TO THE TOP TRACKS OFF NOW! THAT'S WHAT I CALL SAD 18 WITH THE OTHER MIDDLE SCHOOLERS.

LEAVE ROOM FOR JESUS, KIDS.

C'MON, WE GOT TIME FOR ONE SLOW GRIND BEFORE SHE NEEDS US.

IT MIGHT BE KIND OF A STRETCH, BUT HAVERHILL IS IMPORTANT TO ME.
I KNOW, NOTHING IS EVER IMPORTANT TO ME, IT'S MY THING, BUT THIS PLACE IS. IT WAS SO PURE.
MORE THAN I EXPECTED IT TO BE, ANYWAY.
SOMETHING ABOUT THESE PEOPLE AND PLACES I TREASURED AND HAD A HISTORY WITH, HAVERHILL, CAT, VLAD...
LOOK, AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE SEEN, I'M NEVER HAVING KIDS.
BUT IF I DID, I THINK IT MIGHT FEEL LIKE I FEEL ABOUT THOSE THINGS.
LIKE THE IDEA OF THEM BECOMING HARMED OR CORRUPTED IN SOME WAY...
...MAKES ME FEEL CRAZY ENOUGH TO COME BACK FROM THE FUCKING DEAD AND--

CASSIE--!
VLAD!
WHERE'S VAMPI?!
SHE--
FLEW OFF--
THAT'S WHY WE ALWAYS SAY, BUDDY...
...FRIENDS BEFORE CUTE REAR ENDS!
CASSIE-- NO!
IF YOU SWING AT HIM AND MISS THE CURSE WILL BREAK, HE WILL DESTROY YOU!
YOU HAVE TO JUST STRIKE AT HIM IN ONE--

KILL HIM--
IN--
ONE--
THUK
CASSIE--?
I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS.
OKAY, GOOD NEWS FIRST.
A GIRL IN THE BATHROOM TOLD ME I WAS "GOALS."
BAD NEWS...

BAD NEWS IS THAT IF CHET WAS THE HEAD VAMPIRE, THE OTHERS WOULD HAVE ALL TURNED TO ASH WHEN YOU STAKED HIM.
THEY DID NOT TURN TO ASH.
NOPE. WHICH MEANS WE JUST KILLED SOME BIGGER, BADDER VAMPIRE'S FAAAAVORITE CUTE LIEUTENANT.
AND HE'S GOING TO BE PISSED.
OR SHE!
OR SHE.

CREEEAK
SSSSS...
HHHHH--
--HH!
Haverhill High Heritage Award
goes to:
Chet Chanders

WHUMP
HSSSSSSSS!!
INSOLENT CUR--
GKK--
YES--
--CALL ME CUR AGAIN, YOU WHELP--
SMASSSH
THUK

DO YOU EVER HAVE THOSE NIGHTMARES WHERE YOU'RE BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL?
QUIT WITH THE HISSING, IT'S DUMB.
SSSS...
OH NO, THEY HAVE GOT MISTER GINSBERGER.
WHO?
I HAVE THOSE MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE.
THE MAN WHO TEACHES LIFE SCIENCES TO THE CHILDREN.
SHUNK
HOW COME YOU NEVER LEARN ANYONE'S NAME, CASSIE?
KEEPS THE BODY COUNT LOWER.
TRUST ME.
DO WE WANT TO HEAD BACK TO THE GYM?
I REQUESTED "PONY" AND I THINK THEY'RE GONNA PLAY IT ANY MINUTE NOW.
HONESTLY I'M MORE SCARED OF THE DANCING THAN I AM THE MONSTERS, AND I THINK WE ALL KNOW THAT.
NICE TRY.
NOW'S WHEN VLAD AND I ACTUALLY NEED THOSE THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD ALIEN VAMPIRE QUEEN POWERS THAT YOU SUPPOSEDLY HAVE.

WELL, YOU KNOW LIKE I DO THAT WE'VE CLEARLY GOT AN ELDER VAMPIRE TO CONTEND WITH.
THE CHET-WAS-A-CUTE-LIEUTENANT-TO-ANOTHER-VAMPIRE THEORY I EARLIER POSTULATED.
I PREFER *CUTE-TENANT THEORY*, BUT YES.
HNNNNHHH...
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO TAKE OUT *ALL* OF THESE VAMPIRES INDIVIDUALLY.
IN FACT, IF WE'RE ABLE TO DISPATCH THE *ELDER* VAMPIRE, MOST OF THESE FOLKS SHOULD TURN BACK TO NORMAL.
MAYBE.
SO, WE'LL FIND HIM.
OR HER.
OR HER.
HSSS!
YAWK
BY MY COMMAND, LEAD US TO YOUR MASTER.
GOD DAMNIT, VAMPIRELLA!
YOU HAD TO PICK A *VARSITY TRACK STAR?*

OH, C'MON, RUNNING'S GOOD FOR YOUR HEART!
RIGHT? IS THAT WHAT YOU HUMANS USE FOR RUNNING? HEARTS?
THOSE--
--ARE-- LEGS.
CAN WE--
:HNNGH:
--STOP FOR A MINUTE?
I'VE EATEN--
:HHK!:
--A LOT OF COMBO MEALS LATELY.
WHOOF!
WHAP
HNNNGH--

I DON'T EVEN TRY TO STOP MYSELF.
CASSIE, NO!
I KNOW, ON SOME LEVEL, I SHOULDN'T JUST BEAT THEM INTO A PULP.
IF WE FOCUS ON THE ELDER VAMPIRE, THESE FOLK WILL ALL TURN BACK TO NORMAL, AND THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THAT WITHOUT BROKEN CLAVICLES.
SO IF I KNOW THAT, THAT BEGS THE QUESTION...
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU, LATELY?
...WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME, LATELY?
JESUS, HE WAS GONNA BITE YOU...
SUCH A SOFTIE THESE DAYS.

SEVERAL HOURS LATER.
DUDE.
NOOO NO NO NO!
HEHHH...
TAK
TAK
TAK TAK
HUK--
WHOOOSH
HIDEOUS MORTAL--
WE HAVE BEEN WALKING AROUND THIS TOWN FOLLOWING RANDOM VAMPIRES FOR HOURS.
SSSS!
NONE OF THEM HAVE LED US TO THE LEADER, AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF VAMPIRELLA.
I THINK SHE DITCHED US.
WHUMP
I GUESS... I WAS LITTLE BIT HOPING...
OH.
YOU SAVED MY LIFE, HOW CAN I REPAY--
FUCK OFF, MY FRIEND IS HAVING GIRL TROUBLES.
NNRRF!
BUDDY.
I KNOW. "FRIENDS BEFORE CUTE REAR ENDS," BUT...
...I LIKE HER.

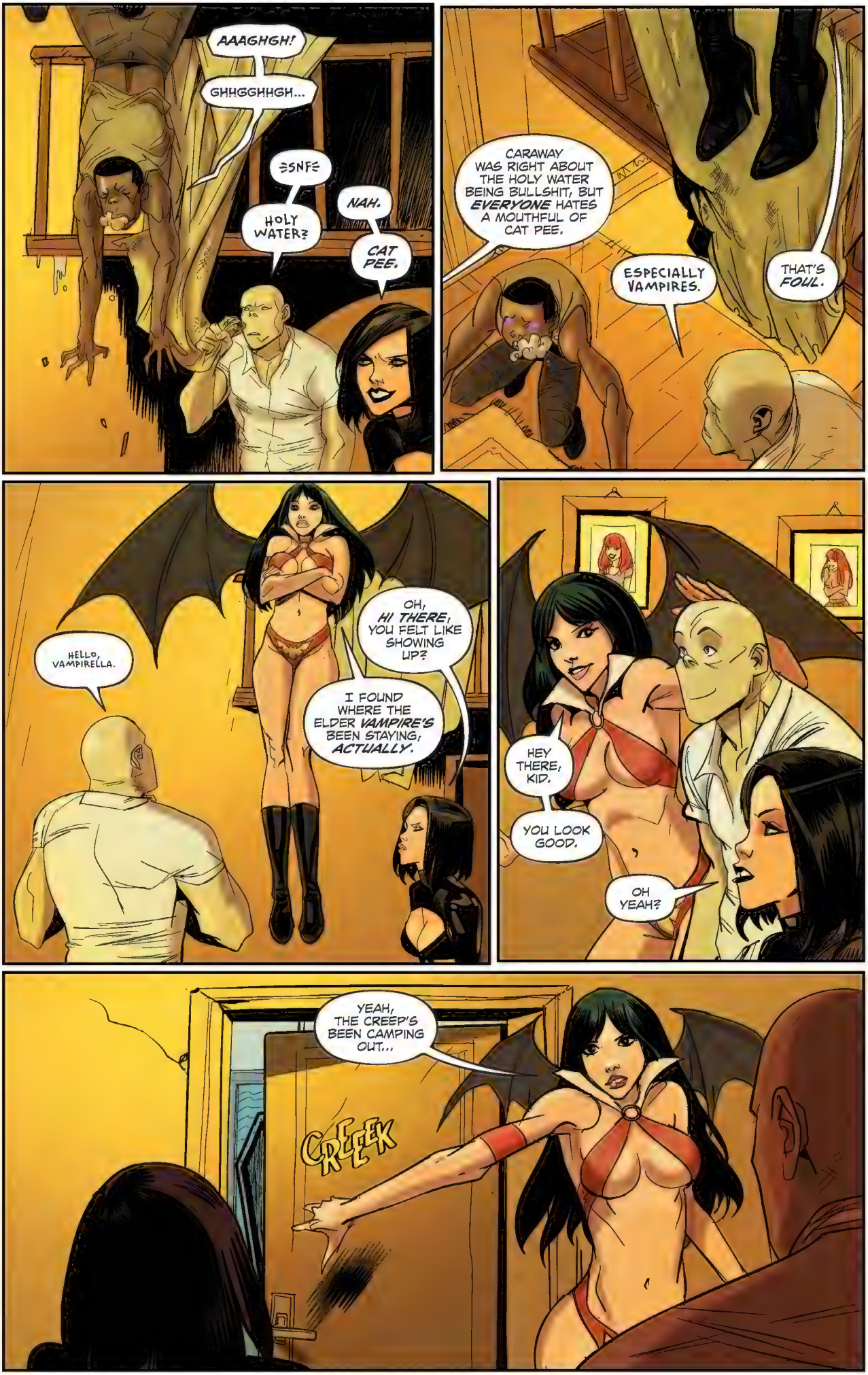
VLAD, LISTEN.
SHE IS A THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD VAMPIRE ALIEN QUEEN.
AND I KNOW A LOT OF THOSE TRAITS WERE ON YOUR "IDEAL PARTNER" LIST.
BUT I THINK MAYBE YOU TWO JUST WANT DIFFERENT THINGS.
LIKE, YOU DON'T WANT TO SUFFER.
AND SHE...
...I THINK SHE EXPLICITLY GETS OFF ON SUFFERING?
HEY, YOU GONNA TELL ON ME IF I BREAK A FEW OF THESE VAMPIRE KNEECAPS?
NO.
I AM IN BAD MOOD NOW BECAUSE OF GIRL.

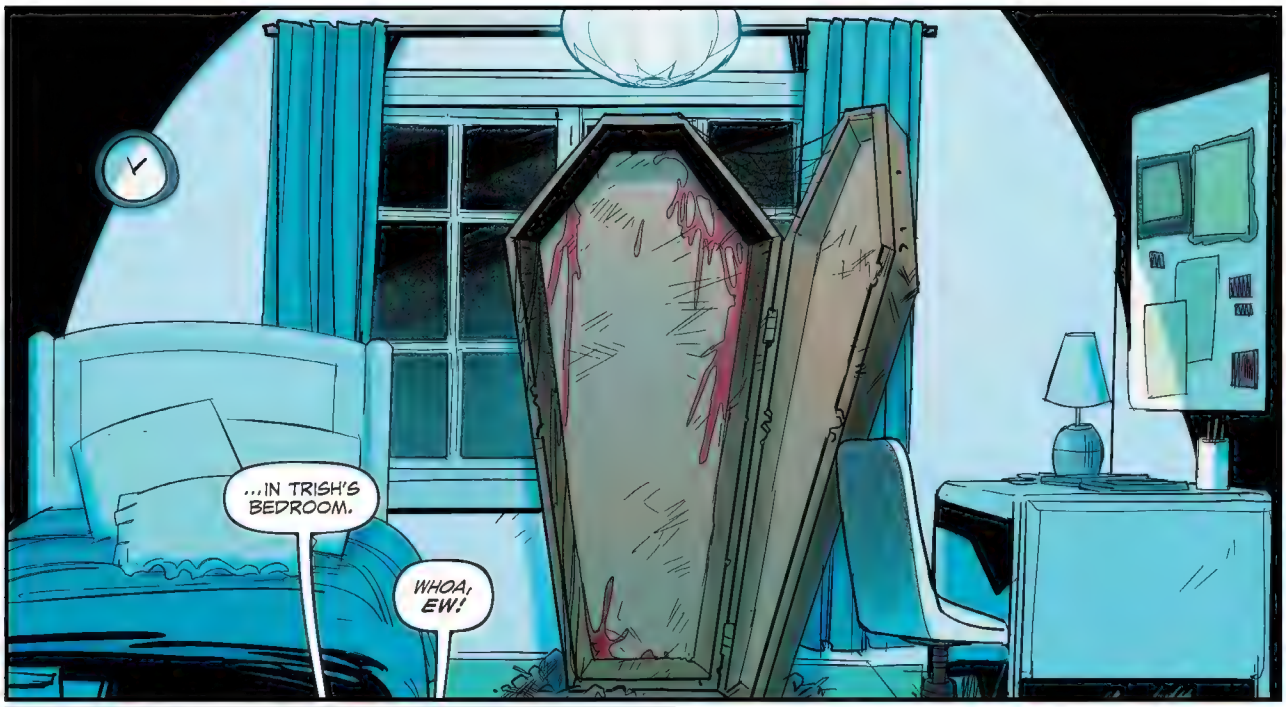
AHHHHHHHHH...

LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S GETTING A CALL FROM YOUR GIRLFRIEND.
RUDE.

MAYBE IT ISN'T HER CALLING THEM.
IS THIS YOU BEING CAUTIOUS ABOUT WHAT COULD BE IN THERE?
OR IS THIS YOU HOPING YOUR GIRLFRIEND ISN'T CALLING ALL THESE OTHER VAMPIRES INSTEAD OF CALLING YOU UP?
YOU ARE SO VERY MEAN WHEN YOU ARE NOT HAVING GIRLFRIEND OR BOYFRIEND.
THAT'S NOT IT--
THEN WHAT IS IT?
OH LOOK, VAMPIRES, A DISTRACTION!
AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD TO THEM FOR WHEN THEY TURN BACK?
OH, IT'S JUST SOME BROKEN BONES.
VAMPIRES CAN HEAL FROM THOSE, AND BESIDES, SOME OF THESE VAMPIRES ARE STUDENT ATHLETES.
THEY'VE SEEN WORSE.

HEHH...
Y'ALL AREN'T THE TALKY TYPE OF VAMPIRES, I'VE NOTICED.
FINE BY ME.
DESPITE THE ATTIRE, I DON'T REALLY GO IN FOR GOTH POETRY.
HGGHH--
I'M MORE OF A LOUD, STUPID BUTT ROCK KINDA GAL.
NO. NO MORE.
THUK
NO MORE SINGING DEF LEPPARD IN THE TRUCK, CASSIE!!
?!
?!

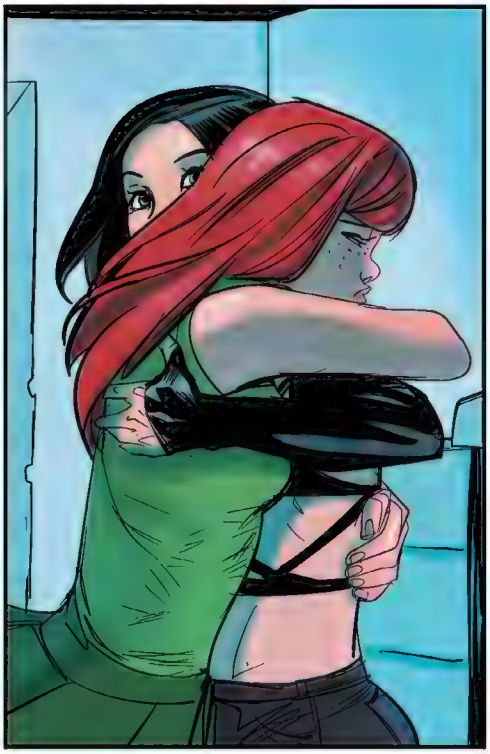

AAAGHGH!
GHHGGHHGH...
=SNF=
HOLY WATER?
NAH.
CAT PEE.
CARAWAY WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE HOLY WATER BEING BULLSHIT, BUT EVERYONE HATES A MOUTHFUL OF CAT PEE.
ESPECIALLY VAMPIRES.
THAT'S FOUL.
HELLO, VAMPIRELLA.
OH, HI THERE, YOU FELT LIKE SHOWING UP?
I FOUND WHERE THE ELDER VAMPIRE'S BEEN STAYING, ACTUALLY.
HEY THERE, KID.
YOU LOOK GOOD.
OH YEAH?
YEAH, THE CREEP'S BEEN CAMPING OUT...
CREEEK


...IN TRISH'S BEDROOM.
WHOA, EW!

WHAT A WEIRD PLACE TO--

HOLD ON, DOES TRISH STILL LIVE HERE?
BECAUSE--
HHN--

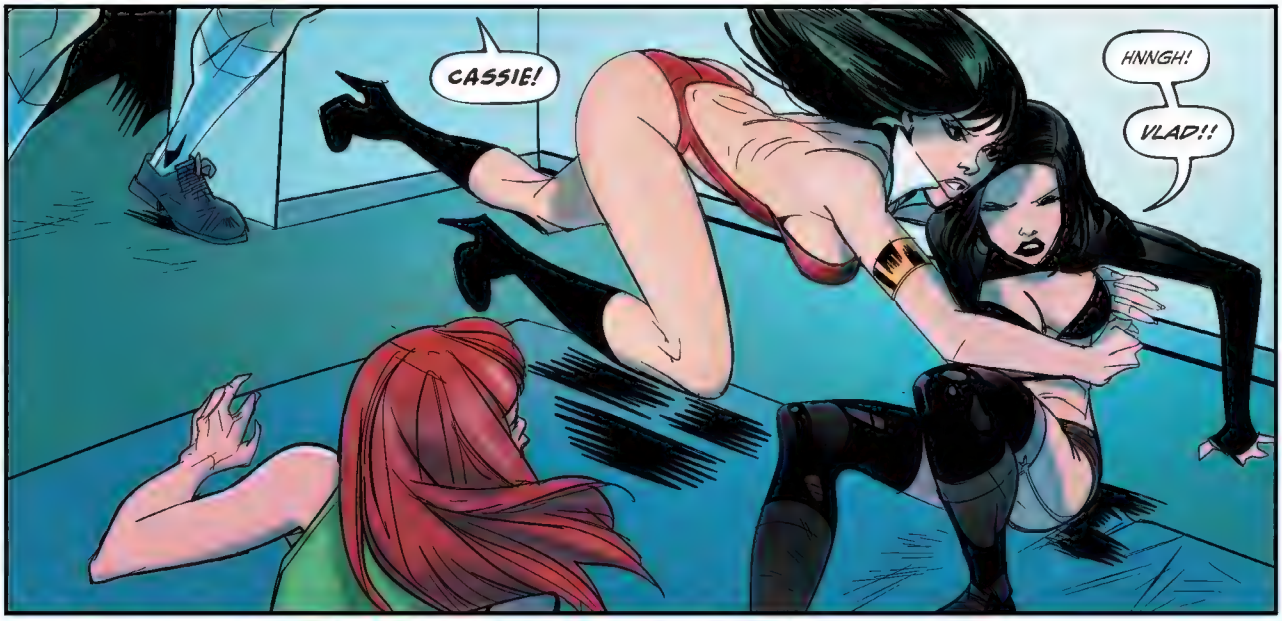
HOLY SHIT, TRISH?!
OH MY GOD, C-C-CASSIE?



I'D HEARD YOU WERE DOING A LITTLE EAT, PRAY, LOVE ROAD TRIP!
I *PRAYED* MYSELF, THAT YOU'D COME *SAVE* HAVERHILL!
UH, YEAH, I'M HERE TO HELP...
OH, *CASSIE*.
WHAT ARE YOU STILL *DOING* HERE?
THAT VAMPIRE GUY, CHET, SAID THAT YOU AND LUNK, YOU WERE ALL GONE.
LUNK *IS* GONE. HE DIDN'T MAKE IT.
DIDN'T MAKE IT...
...HOW?
WELL CASSIE, THERE'S BEEN SO MANY HORRIBLE THINGS HERE, WE CAN'T SAY.

AND THIS AWFUL ELDER VAMPIRE HAS HAD ME CAPTURED HERE AGAINST MY WILL, SO--
WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?
HM?
THE ELDER VAMPIRE.
YOU SAW HIM!
OR HER.
WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING?
NOTHING.
HEY, YOU'RE NOT WEARING YOUR CLASS RING.
SO?
THEY'RE NICE RINGS.
PURE SILVER.
CATCH!

AAAAAAAGH!
CURSE YOU FUCKING CORDERO HUNTERS AND YOUR TRICKSSSSS--
OOOF!
VLAD! VAMPI! TRISH IS THE LEAD VAMPIRE, FUCKIN' STAKE HER!


CASSIE!
HNNGH!
VLAD!!

FRIENDS BEFORE--

SLEEP.

GOD, YOU'RE THE WORST KIND OF GIRLFRIEND!
I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU, BUT YOU'RE MAKING THAT REALLY HARD!

DON'T YOU GET IT, CASSIE?
WHAT HAVERHILL REALLY NEEDS...

...IS IMMORTALITY.
...IS IMMORTALITY.
OH, YOU'RE KIDDING ME.
LET ME GUESS, HERE COMES A SPEECH ABOUT HOW YOU MADE THE CHOICE TO BECOME A VAMPIRE, YOU DIDN'T FEEL PRESSURE ABOUT AGING--
SILENCE.
I'D HEARD YOU CORDEROS WERE MOUTHY. I HAD NO IDEA.
WHACK
WAIT, YEAH, EXPLAIN THAT.
HOW ARE YOU THE ELDER VAMPIRE IF CHET IS, LIKE, A HUNDRED YEARS OLD?
THE POWER OF THE BLOOD EXCHANGE IS ANCIENT, DARK MAGIC.
CHET WAS THE ELDEST AMONG US, YES, AND OUR LEADER AT FIRST... BUT HE BELIEVED IN MY CAUSE.
HAVERHILL WAS ONCE AN IDYLLIC SLICE OF AMERICANA, BUT NOW IT HAS BECOME... DRAB. FILTHY.
SINCE YOU CAME, YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU YOUR FOUL LANGUAGE, YOUR FILTHY HABITS.
YOU INTRODUCED YOUR DISEASE AND YOU MADE MY SWEET, RIPE TOWN TURN TO ROT.

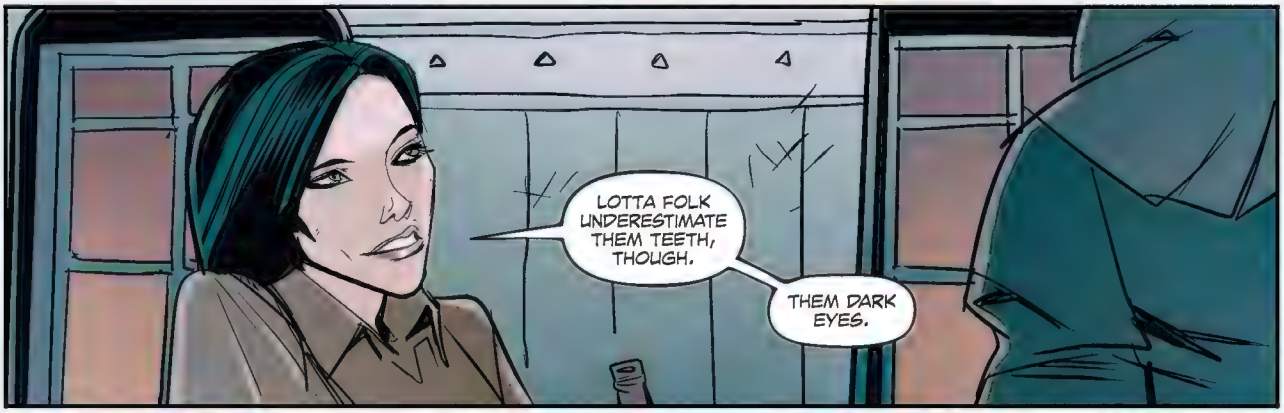
I KNEW THAT AS VAMPIRES, WE COULD *PRESERVE* WHAT WAS LEFT OF HAVERHILL.
SO, IN THE DARKEST RITUAL, WITH THE *PUREST* OF SACRIFICES, CHET TURNED HIS POWER OVER...
...TO *ME*.
SACRIFICES...
...*LUNK*?!
VAMPI, AND YOU'RE *HELPING* HER?
REALLY?!
LISTEN, KID.
I MAY NOT LOOK MY AGE, BUT I'VE BEEN HIKING FOR A *THOUSAND YEARS*.
I'M READY TO GO HOME, YOU KNOW?
OR AT THE VERY LEAST, MAKE ONE.
US GIRLS CAN HAVE OUR OWN LITTLE SLICE OF SUBURBAN PARADISE.
ALL IMMORTAL.
ALL *OURS*.
MOONBATHING BY THE POOL.

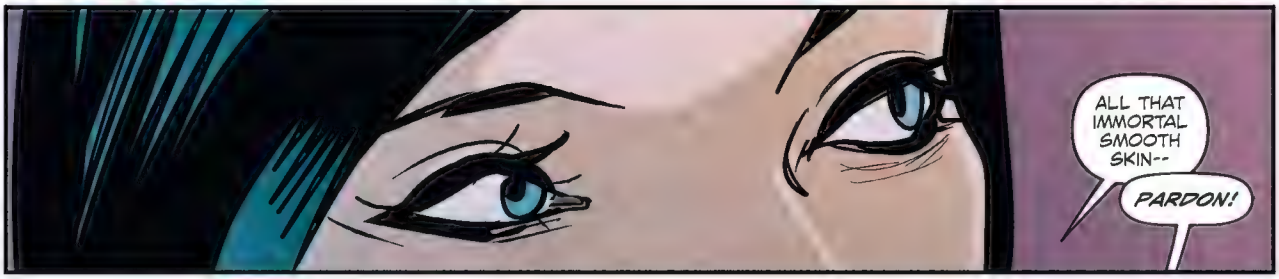
I'LL REMIND YOU THAT NO MATTER HOW SEXY THE CULPRITS...
...I AM STILL REALLY TRYING NOT TO GET BIT TO DEATH THIS WEEK.
THAT IS, ONCE WE TAKE OUT--
--THE LAST CORDERO VAMPIRE HUNTER!
AT LEAST THEY'RE WRONG ABOUT THAT.
I'M NOT THE LAST.
LET'S JUST HOPE SHE SHOWS UP.

SAWYER'S
YOU'RE NOT EXCITED?!

VAMPIRES.
Y'AIN'T EXCITED TO HUNT VAMPIRES?
THEY ARE JUST PEOPLE... WITH TEETH, YES?
WHO BITE NECKS?
VAMPIRES ARE FUN BECAUSE THEY'VE GOT RULES, MY MAN.
THEY CAN'T ABIDE SUNLIGHT, FOR ONE.
IS IT SUNLIGHT? OR DAYTIME?
CAN THEY BE AWAKE IN THE DAY IN A DARK ROOM?
ALL DEPENDS ON WHO YA ASK.

SOME HATE RUNNING WATER, SOME CAN'T ABIDE GARLIC, AN' THEY PRETTY MUCH ALL HATE CATS.
CROSSES ARE A STICKY ONE-- YOU GOTTA REALLY BELIEVE IN IT OR IT WON'T WORK, BUT YOU'RE TAKIN' A CHANCE THAT THE VAMPIRE EVEN KNOWS WHAT IT IS.
YOU GO TO SOME PART'A THE WORLD WHERE THEY AIN'T GOT CHURCH AND WAVE A CROSS AROUND, AND THEY'RE JUST GONNA STICK IT RIGHT THROUGH YA.


LOTTA FOLK UNDERESTIMATE THEM TEETH, THOUGH.
THEM DARK EYES.


ALL THAT IMMORTAL SMOOTH SKIN--
PARDON!

Y'ALL WANT ANOTHER ROUND?
NAH, WE OUGHTA BE HITTIN' THE DUSTY TRAIL.
TINK
SURE THING, BUDDY, I'LL MEET YA AT THE STABLES.
I GOTTA SEE A MAN ABOUT A HORSE, FIRST.

WHERE THE HELL'S VIAGO?
HEY, VIAGO, PINCH IT OFF, LET'S--
HHHHHHH...
KGH-- KGH--

MNNPH--
4:00 AM
STILL 'BOUT THREE HOURS 'TIL SUNRISE.
I BET THAT GIRL AIN'T GOT THREE HOURS OF FIGHT LEFT IN 'ER.
LOOK AT ME NOW.
THE JERSEY DEVIL ONCE LOOKED ME IN THE EYES AN' FILLED HIS PANTS AND NOW I'M GETTIN' UP AT FOUR IN THE GOT-DAMN MORNIN' FOR...
...FUCKIN' FAMILY SHIT.

I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, BUT I FEEL LIKE WE SPENT WAY TOO MUCH TIME AWAY BEFORE WE GOT BACK TO ME ABOUT TO BE RIPPED IN HALF BY THE BIG-BOOBED BABES OF VAMPIRE AMERICANA--

--BUT, BY ALL MEANS, HANG OUT WITH MY ABSENTEE GREAT AUNTIE INSTEAD--

KSJSH
--LET'S HOPE THAT'S HER NOW!

HSSSSS!
HNGH!
HISSSSSSS!

AUNT CARAWAY!
GET YOUR BOY AND GET ON DOWN.
VLAD'S ASLEEP, SHE PUT HIM IN SOME KIND OF TRANCE!

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DRAG HIS BIG SLEEPIN' ASS OUT THE WINDOW, SWEETIE, THAT'S A VAMPIRE CURSE.
AW, MAN...
I GOT THEM VAMPIRES OFF YOUR ASS, DIDN'T I?!
C'MON-- HNNGH-- VLAD!
YOU'RE TOO GOOD FOR THIS, YOU STUPID PALOOKA.
SINCE WHEN ARE YOU HOOKING UP WITH GIRLS, ANYWAY?
TSSSH
I SHOULDA LET YOU GET STUCK BY THE GLASS AS PUNISHMENT.
OOH, I SHOULDN'T SAY THAT.
TUMP
TOO SLASHER-Y.
C'MON, MEATLOAF, SHE'S TALKIN' TO HERSELF UP THERE...

HEY, WAIT UP!
...BETTER GET ON BEFORE SHE CRACKS JUST LIKE HER MAMA.
RUDE.
WE BEST HOOF IT, THE FIRE'S GONNA MAKE ANY NESTING VAMPIRES IN THAT HOUSE SCATTER LIKE ROACHES.
BEST PART IS...
...I CAN STOP WASTIN' CROSSBOW BOLTS NOW, HEH.
THE SUN'S TURNIN' 'EM INTO JIFFY POP FOR ME!
UH HUH.
YOU'RE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HIM, AREN'T YOU?
HE'S MY BEST FRIEND, CARAWAY.
WELL, HE'S SLEEPIN', HE AIN'T DEAD.
ONE MOMENT.
OH, DUDE, I CAN SMELL THAT FROM HERE...

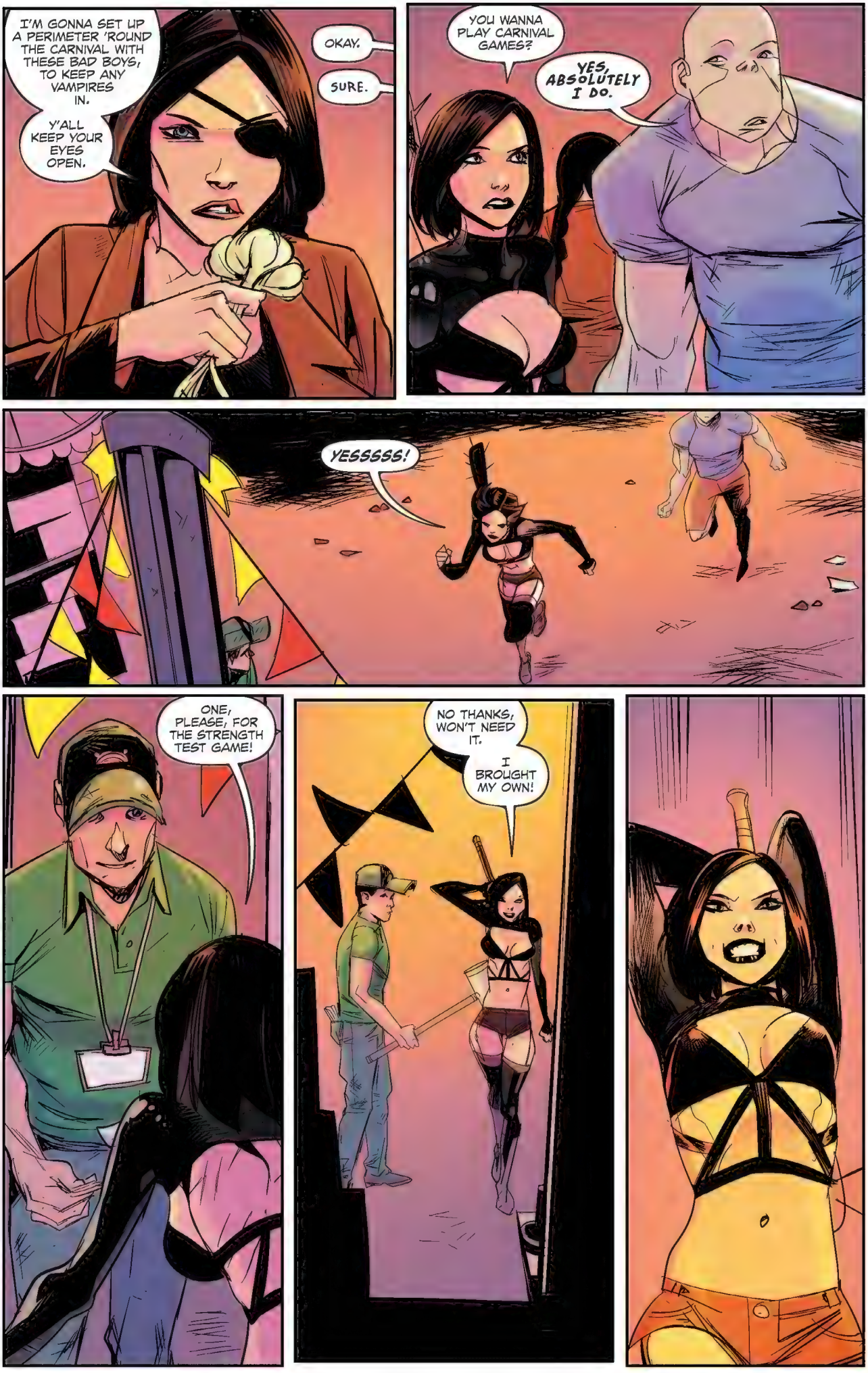
BLEECCH--
HHHHNNH--
KOFF--
JESUS, CARAWAY, WHAT IS THAT STENCH?!
I THOUGHT THOSE WERE SMELLING SALTS!
HEH HEH...
...WEREWOLF TAMPON.
OLD CRYPTID HUNTIN' TRICK. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN SOMETHIN' GROSS IS GONNA BE USEFUL.
HORRIBLE.
VLAD, YOU OKAY?
YES.
WHERE IS VAMPI?
SHE WENT FERAL ON YA, BUDDY.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH THEM MONSTER WOMEN.
THEY MAY LOOK PRETTY, BUT DEEP DOWN, THEY AIN'T NO DIFFERENT FROM A TROPICAL FISH OR A POISONOUS PLANT.
PRETTY'S JUST ANOTHER WAY TO HUNT.
OKAY, BUT VAMPI IS OUR FRIEND.
IS SHE? DON'T LOOK LIKE IT TO ME.
SHE'S NOT LIKE TRISH.
FIRST OF ALL, SHE'S LITERALLY AN ALIEN, OR SOMETHING.
TRISH HAS TO HAVE VAMPIRELLA UNDER SOME KIND OF MIND CONTROL.
I KNOW VAMPIRELLA CAN DO THAT, I JUST DIDN'T THINK ALL VAMPIRES COULD.
THEY CAN'T.

BUT IF VAMPI AND TRISH DRANK EACH OTHER'S BLOOD, IT'S POSSIBLE THEY COULD SHARE POWERS, SHARE CONTROL, SHARE ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
SO, LIKE, TRISH COULD MASS MIND-CONTROL PEOPLE THAT AREN'T VAMPIRES NOW?
IF SHE WERE PRESENT IN FRONT OF A LOT OF PEOPLE?
A-YUP.
WHAT DAY IS IT?

HOW COME YOU NEVER KNOW THESE FACTS?
IT IS SUNDAY. I JUST WOKE UP AND I KNOW THIS.
I DON'T NEED JUDGMENT IN FRONT OF THE ANCESTOR, OKAY?
SUNDAY MEANS THE LAST NIGHT OF THE HAVERHILL HERITAGE FESTIVAL.
THE CARNIVAL. THE CARNIVAL.

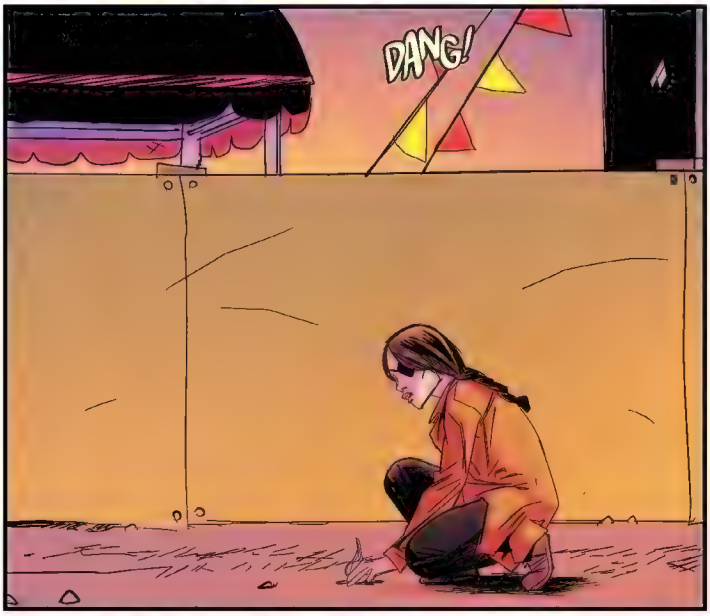
HONESTLY, I'M SURPRISED THE CARNIVAL'S STILL GOING ON.
BETWEEN THE NEAR-CONSTANT VAMPIRE ATTACKS AND THE REVELATION THAT THE WHOLE EVENT'S LEAD ADVOCATE, CHET CHANDERS, WAS ACTUALLY AUNT CARAWAY'S LONG-TIME UNDEAD NEMESIS...

...I THOUGHT THEY'D CANCEL IT.
NOT THIS TOWN.
PART OF THE WAY THEY HIDE THE CORRUPTION, PLACES LIKE THIS ONE.
NO MATTER HOW BAD THINGS SEEM TO GET...
...IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL 'ROUND HERE.
SO, HAVE YOU BEEN HERE THE OTHER TIMES I CAME TO HAVERHILL?
BECAUSE, LIKE, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN USEFUL TO KNOW I HAD A WELL-ARMED RELATIVE IN THE AREA...
BLOOD'S JUST BLOOD.
NO ONE OWES ANYONE ANYTHING FOR IT.
BUT SPEAKIN' OF LADIES WHO SHARE BLOOD, I'M LOOKIN' TO PUT SOME VAMPIRE HEADS ON MY WALL, SO LET'S GET MOVIN'.
WAIT.
I NEED TO BE CLEAR, YOU'RE NOT KILLING VAMPIRELLA.
SHE'S MY FRIEND, AND VLAD'S...
...FRIEND, TOO.
I WORRY THAT IN A LIL BIT YOU'LL BE BEGGING ME TO DO EXACTLY THAT.
BUT DON'T LEMME SAY I TOLD YA SO.


I'M GONNA SET UP A PERIMETER 'ROUND THE CARNIVAL WITH THESE BAD BOYS, TO KEEP ANY VAMPIRES IN.
Y'ALL KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.
OKAY.
SURE.
YOU WANNA PLAY CARNIVAL GAMES?
YES, ABSOLUTELY I DO.
YESSSSS!
ONE, PLEASE, FOR THE STRENGTH TEST GAME!
NO THANKS, WON'T NEED IT.
I BROUGHT MY OWN!

DANG!
HEY, LOOK AT THAT!
LITTLE LADY'S GOT AN ARM ON HER!

YEAH, AND MOST OF THE ARMS I KEEP ON ME ARE MINE!


DANG!

SHE'S GOT THAT CORDERO ARM.
BUT IF SHE'S PLAYING CARNIVAL GAMES WHILE I--
SSS...

HUP--
HISSSSS!

AAHH!
THUD
HHHH--!
THUK
HSSSSSS
FUCK OFF!
STUPID FUCKIN' SCRUB VAMPIRES.
SWEAR, IT'S LIKE SCARIN' POSSUMS.

ZRRRBT ZRRRBT
Just scared some a them up your way, heads up for vampires
Y'all better not be playin those stupid ass carnival games! >:(
HEADS UP, VLAD--
FATHER, SAY A LITTLE PRAYER AND BLESS THESE WATER GUNS HERE FOR ME AND MY BRO, WON'T YOU?
UH, UH--?
ERM... BY THIS HOLY WATER AND BY YOUR PRECIOUS BLOOD--
--WASH AWAY ALL MY SINS O LORD?

SSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS!
PSSSSH
PSSSSH
YEAH, THAT'LL DO.
HEH HEH HEH.
HECK YEAH!
HEY!
OH, HEY.
THAT WAS PRETTY SWEET, THE WATER GUNS AND THE PRIEST AND ALL THAT--
I THINK I FOUND 'EM.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
HAUNTED HOUSE!
THIS SEEMS WAY TOO OBVIOUS...

AND YET...
CASSANDRA HACK.
WHEN LAST WE MET, I WAS NOT YET MY TRUE SELF.
YEAH, ABOUT THAT-- HOW ARE YOU THE HEAD VAMPIRE WHEN CHET WAS A VAMPIRE FOR WAY LONGER THAN YOU?
THE BLOOD CONTAINS MANY MAGICS.
CHET WAS MY VAMPIRIC SIRE, TRUE, BUT IN TIME I GREW MORE POWERFUL.
IN TIME, I WAS ABLE TO CONVINCE HIM TO FEED ME HIS OWN HEART IN A DARK RITUAL THAT ENABLED ME TO--
COOL. ANYWAY--
HISSS!
HNGH!

=OOF=
MM, HELL-O, YOU BEEFY PIEROGI.
NO. I DO NOT WANT TO BE YOUR PIEROGI ANYMORE!
YOU BETRAYED US FOR YOUR VAMPIRE FRIEND TRISH!
LET GO OF ME AND I'LL HELP YOU WITH HER!
HOW CAN I TRUST YOU?
YOU CAN'T, SUGAR.
BUT I DRANK HER BLOOD A FEW DAYS AGO AND I HAVEN'T SINCE. ALL THIS FIGHTING HAS BURNED IT OUT OF ME. LOOK, I'M SORRY I GOT WEIRD. I DON'T MEET OTHER CUTE GIRL VAMPIRES VERY OFTEN, OKAY?
BUT YOU'RE DEFINITELY A BETTER KISSER THAN HER.

SMASH
OOF!
I WON'T LET YOU TAKE THIS FROM US.
I KNOW I PEAKED IN HIGH SCHOOL, SO I PLAN TO STAY HERE FOREV--
THUK
WH-- WHAT?
SPUT
COULDN'T YOU HAVE BEEN THAT QUICK EARLIER?!
I DIDN'T EVEN SEE HER THERE!

I'M ABOUT TO BE THE LAST THING YOU SEE--
VAMPIRELLA IS OUR FRIEND.
CARAWAY, NO!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE GOING TO CUT MY HEAD OFF.
AND LEAVE THIS BODY?
AT LEAST SAVE THE REST OF ME FOR TAXIDERMY, THESE LEGS OUGHTA BE IN A MUSEUM.
AH, I CAN'T JUDGE Y'ALL BY THE COMP'NY YOU KEEP.
I ONCE SPENT THE BETTER PART OF A SUMMER UP IN THE BAY OF FUNDY, HUNTIN' THEIR LOCAL WATER BEAST WITH A BUNCHA NOVA SCOTIAN WERE-NARWHALS.
YEAH?
HOW ABOUT WE GET THE FUCK OUT OF DODGE, LEAVE ANY STILL-WRIGGLING VAMPIRES TRAPPED IN YOUR GARLIC PERIMETER 'TIL THE SUN COMES UP AND POPS THEIR HEADS, AND YOU TELL US ALL ABOUT THAT?
THROW IN A COUPLE'A CAMPFIRE DOGS, AND YOU GOT YOURSELF AN EVENING.

OH, HEY THERE.
SORRY, I'VE BEEN KIND OF QUIET UP HERE IN MY HEAD.
I GUESS WHEN I HAVE PEOPLE AROUND, FRIENDS OR WHATEVER, I DON'T HAVE TO CONSISTENTLY AMUSE MYSELF.
I CAN TAKE TURNS, DO THINGS FOR OTHER PEOPLE AND, I GUESS, LET THEM DO THINGS FOR ME.
--SO I WAS LIKE, "A SHOTGUN? I'M NOT REALLY A FAN," AND SHE PULLS OUT A JOINT.
AND WITH YOUR BOSS'S DAUGHTER, GIRL, YOU'RE A MESS.
YEAH, BUT THAT'S JUST ME.
SO WILL HAVERHILL RETURN TO NORMAL AFTER THIS?
HONESTLY?
I DON'T THINK I CARE.
MAYBE I GOTTA FIND SOMETHING NEW RATHER THAN ENDLESS REMAKES AND RESURRECTIONS OF PARTS OF MY LIFE BEFORE?
OR NOT.
OR NOT!
YEAH, YEAH...
OR NOT.
The End

Hack/Slash: Resurrection #12 cover A by
TIM SEELEY & **NICK FILARDI**

TEAR OUT MY HEAAART, AND THROW IT ON THE FLOOOOOR AND I'M SORRY FOOOR GETTING BLOOD ON YOUR FLOOR
I'M NEVER LETTING YOU PICK THE MUSIC AGAIN.
IF YOU CAN'T TELL FROM VLAD'S MOOD MUSIC, THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL EPISODE.
MY HEART, CASSIE.
SHE IS BROKEN.
THAT'S YOUR BRAIN THAT'S BROKEN, VLAD, OLD BUDDY.
AND I THOUGHT YOU AND VAMPIRELLA ENDED THINGS MUTUALLY?
DESPITE OUR INTENSE PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY--
GROSS!
--WE ACCEPTED THAT WE DO NOT LEAD COMPATIBLE LIFESTYLES.
HOW BORING OF YOU.
OH, I SHOULD TAKE CASSIE'S ADVICE FOR GIRLFRIENDS, YES.
SHOULD I HAVE KILLED HER MOM, CASSIE?
DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOT A SPECIAL EPISODE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MURDER YOUR BEST FRIEND.
WHAT THE @#$% DID YOU JUST SAY TO ME?!
SKREEE
THOUGH AFTER THAT, IT SHOULD BE.
THUNK KA CHUNK

TUCK AND ROLL, BUDDY, TUCK AND ROLL!
meep!
HNNNNGHHH!!
HNNNNGHHH!!
OH GOD, WE'RE GONNA DIE!
FWAM
I'M SO READY!
TUMP
SQUEEEAK
DAMMIT! I GUESS WE LIVED.
UGGHHHHH...

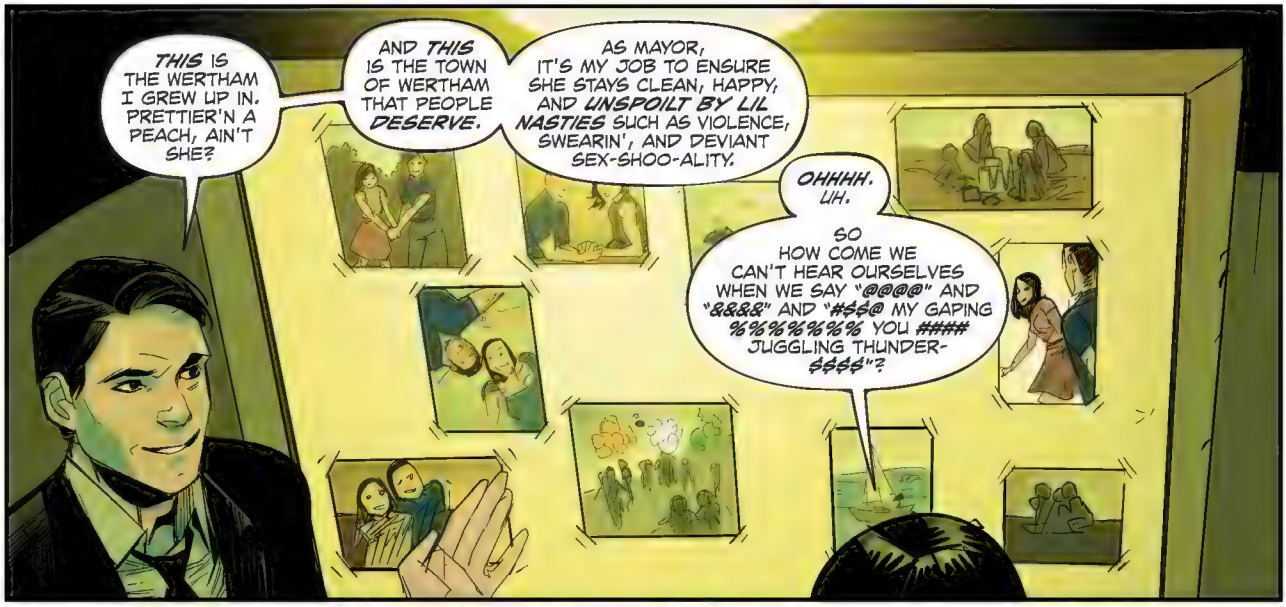
VLAD!
OH @#$%, YOU OKAY?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
I ASKED IF YOU WERE OKAY, YOU BIG PALOOKA.
NO, BEFORE THAT.
UHHH...
HOLY @#$%--
OKAY, THAT WAS WEIRD.
DID YOU HEAR A BUNCH OF GARBLED PUNCTUATION TOO?
YES.
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW ONE WOULD PRONOUNCE THAT, BUT WHEN YOU SAID IT I FOUND IT IMMEDIATELY CLEAR.
WEIRD.
WELCOME TO WERTHAM
"A Good Clean Place to Live!"
MAYOR RICHARD WEINER
I HOPE THIS TOWN HAS FOOD.
I'M @#$%ING STARVING.
THERE IS THAT SOUND AGAIN.
I'M HECKA STARVING.
VERY STARVING.

THIS CITY IS MINE.
MINE TO PROTECT.
MINE TO RULE.
AND IF SOMEONE NEEDS TO PROTECT ITS PEOPLE FROM THEMSELVES...
LANNND
FINN
OH NO, NOT YOU!
I'M JUST READING IT FOR A COLLEGE ESSAY!
...I WILL...
CENSORED
AAAAAUGH!
...BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.

JOEY'S
DINGALING
HELLO?
HEY, OUR TRUCK BROKE DOWN AND--
CAN I GET YOU A JACKET, OR PERHAPS A PONCHO?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
WE WALKED HERE FOR LIKE TWO MILES IN THE HEAT!
I THINK THE LITTLE PLACE WHERE MY THIGHS RUB TOGETHER IS BLEEDING.
PUT THAT AWAY!
I WILL NOT HAVE YOU MAKE THIS PLACE UNCLEAN!
DEPRESS

AUUUUUGH!
AUUUUUGH!
SHE DIDN'T EVEN ASK ABOUT THE TRUCK!
THEIR CUSTOMER SERVICE $@#%S!
THERE IS THAT SOUND AGAIN!
THIS!
WHOOSH
THIS!
NOT APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WHUMP
THIS!
OH.
VISITORS TO MY OFFICE.

HOW NICE.
NO. NOT NICE.
Dick Weiner
YOU WANNA EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT THE $#!+ IS GOING ON AND WHY WE JUST GOT DUMPED IN HERE OFF SOME SLIDE FROM DOUBLE DARE?!
YOUNG'UN, HERE IN WERTHAM WE DON'T SWEAR.
AND WE CERTAINLY DON'T WATCH DOUBLE DARE.
TAKE YOUR HAND OFF OF CASSIE'S FACE, OR I SWEAR I'LL CUT OFF YOUR--
WEINER?!
YOUR NAME IS LITERALLY DICK WEINER?!
HEH HEH HEH...
Dick Weiner
HEY NOW, LITTLE LADY, WHY DON'T YOU JUST PUT THAT DOWN IMMEDIATELY.
OKAY, OKAY. I'M CASSIE, THAT'S VLAD. NEITHER OF US ARE NAMED DICK-- UNFORTUNATELY.
OH, WHY YES.
YES, I MOST CERTAINLY DO.
WANT TO TELL US WHY WE GOT SECRET-SLIDED TO THE MAYOR'S UNDERGROUND JIGSAW-BASEMENT OFFICE BY THE OLD LADY AT THE MECHANICS SHOP, DICK?


THIS IS THE WERTHAM I GREW UP IN. PRETTIER'N A PEACH, AIN'T SHE?
AND THIS IS THE TOWN OF WERTHAM THAT PEOPLE DESERVE.
AS MAYOR, IT'S MY JOB TO ENSURE SHE STAYS CLEAN, HAPPY, AND UNSPOILT BY LIL NASTIES SUCH AS VIOLENCE, SWEARIN', AND DEVIANT SEX-SHOO-ALITY.
OHHHH. UH.
SO HOW COME WE CAN'T HEAR OURSELVES WHEN WE SAY "@@@@" AND "&&&&" AND "#$$@ MY GAPING %%%%%%%% YOU #### JUGGLING THUNDER-$$$$"?

AH, THAT. YOU THERE, BIG GUY.
YOU LOOK LIKE A MAN WHO HAS LIVED LIFE OFF OF THE BEATEN PATH.
Y'ALL UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE MAGICS IN THIS WORLD BEYOND THE UNDERSTANDING OF MOSTA THESE PEOPLE?

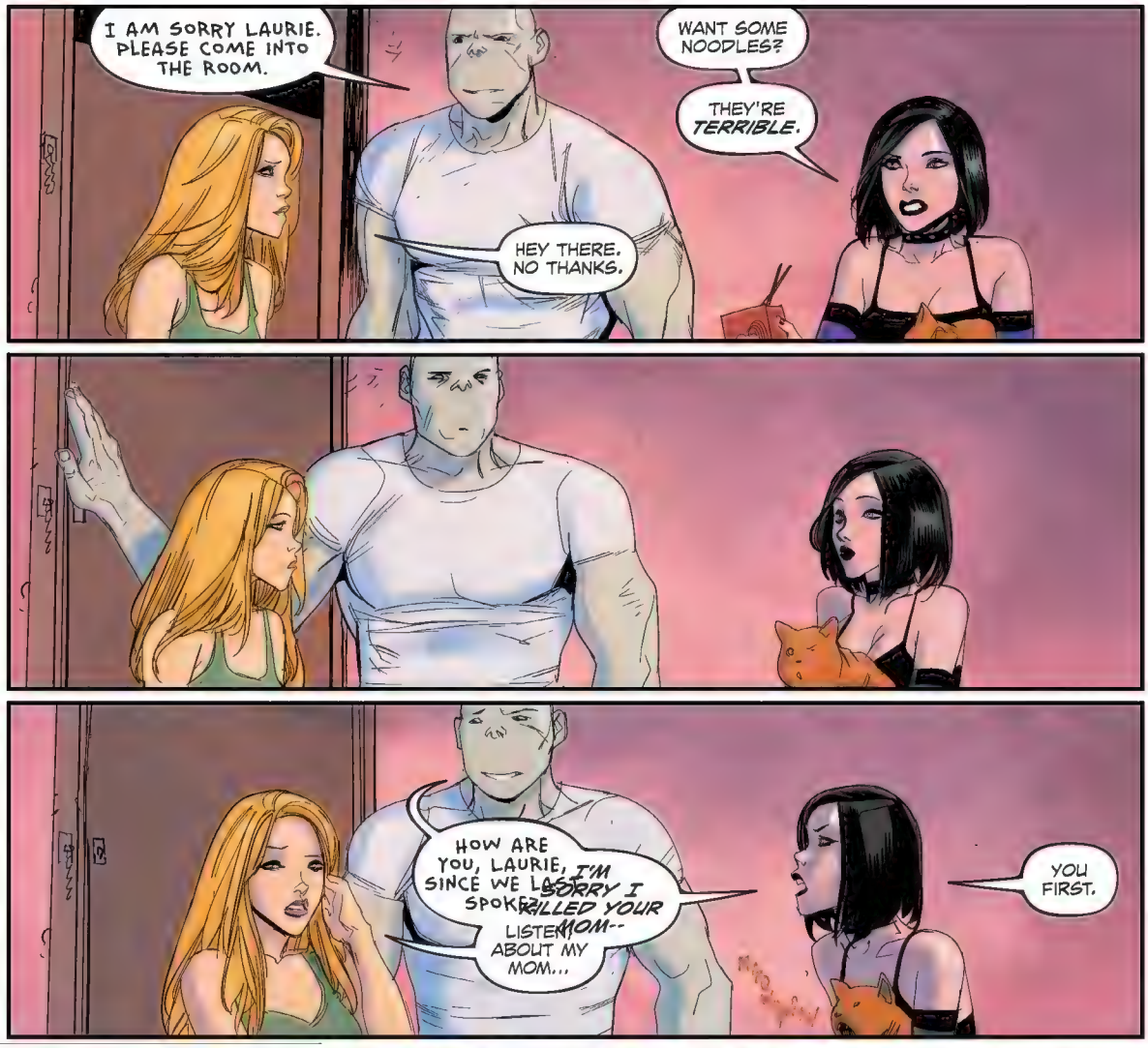
YES, UM. BUT WE ARE STILL JUST NEEDING OUR TRUCK FIXED?
AND I'D LIKE AN ANSWER ABOUT THE TRAP DOOR SLIDE, STILL.

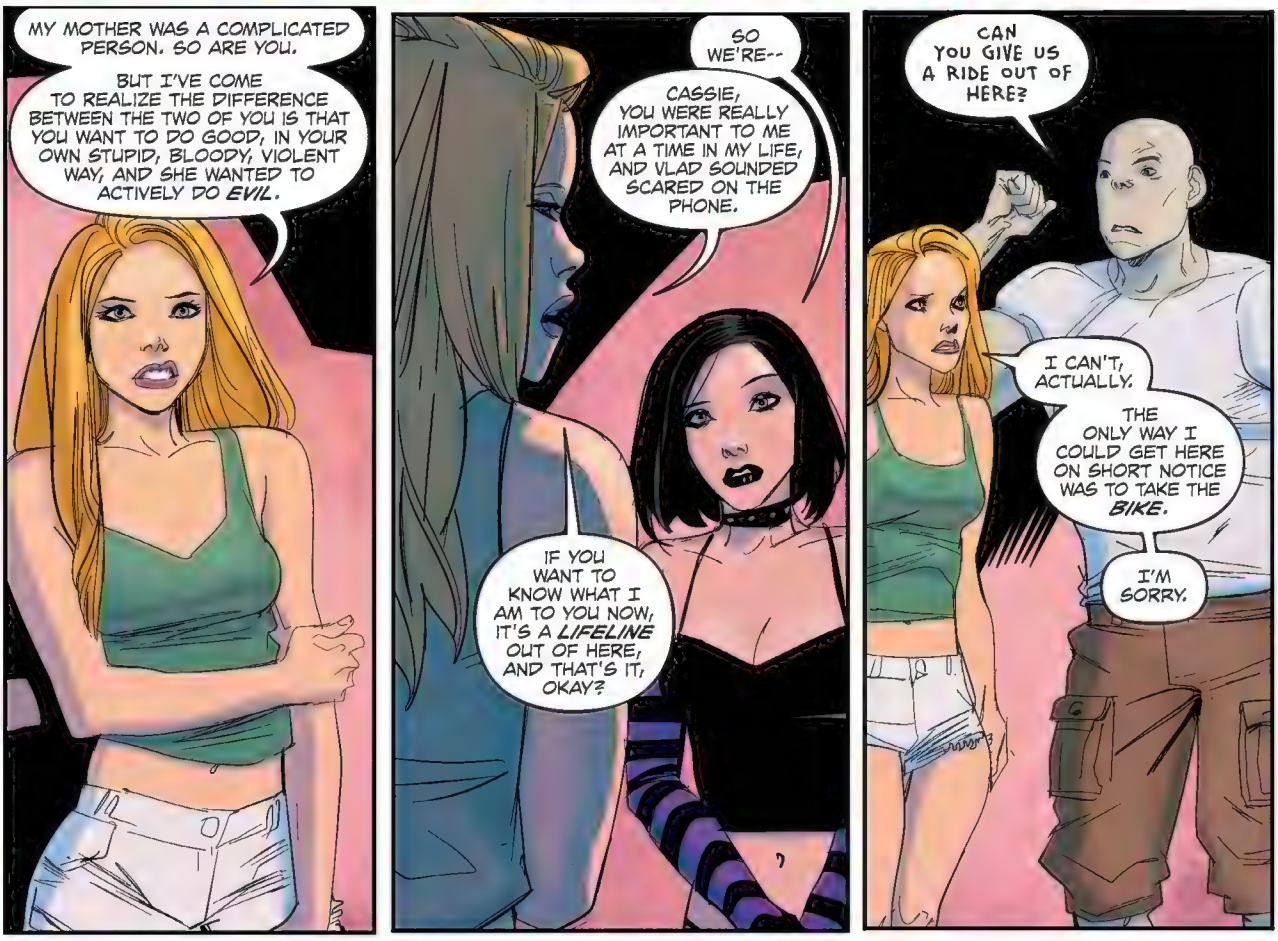
OH, THAT'S JUST SOMETHING I HAD PUT TOGETHER SO I COULD MAKE SURE I KEEP AN EYE ON ALL THE NEW VISITORS WHO COME TO TOWN!
NOTHIN' LIKE A COMPLEX NETWORK OF UNDERGROUND TUBES TO MONITOR DEVIANT BEHAVIORS, Y'ALL!

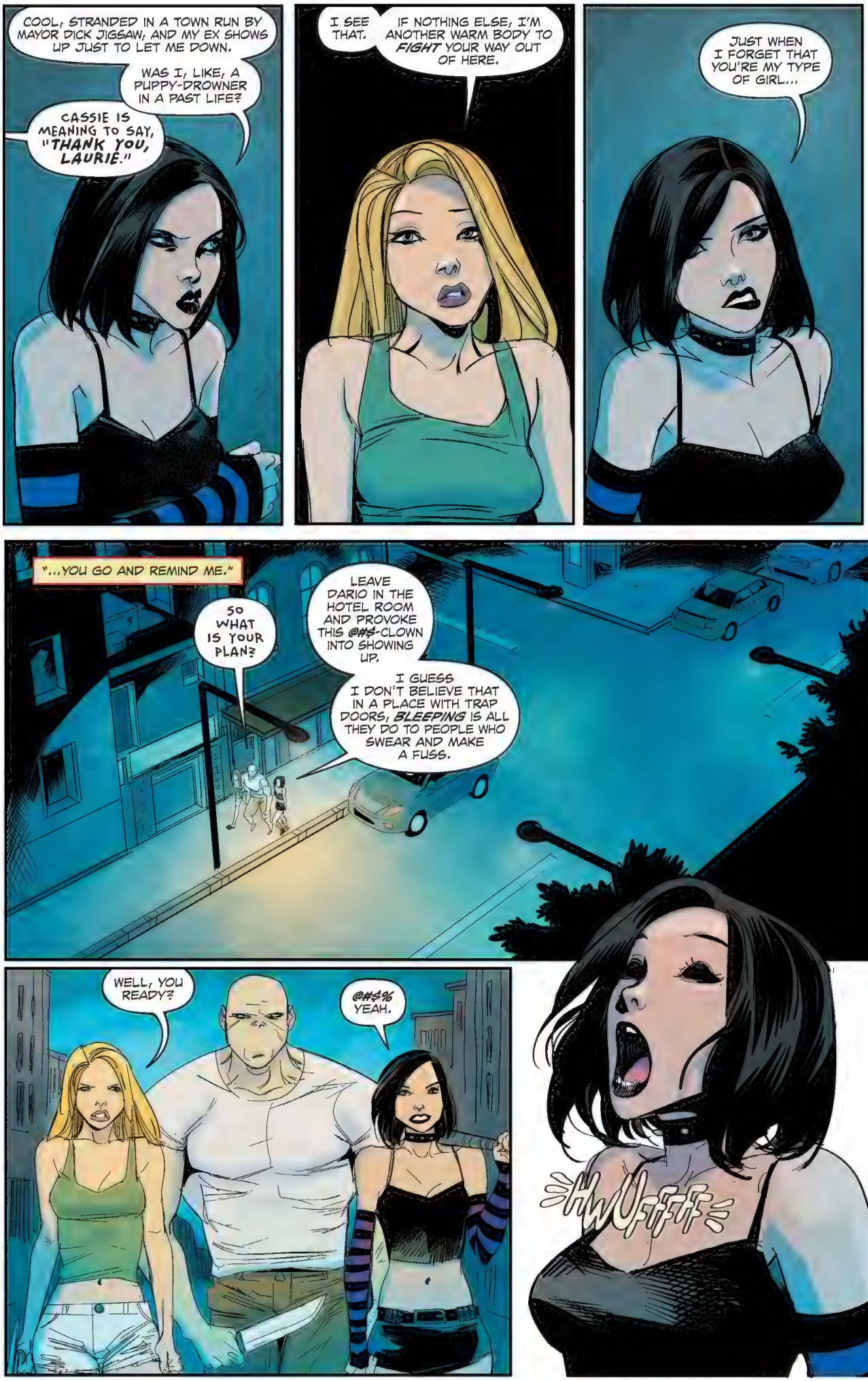
WE'LL GET THAT TRUCK'A YOURS FIXED UP IN A JIFFY OF A LUBE, TRUST.

WHAT THE--
--HECK-A-ROONIE--
--JUST HAPPENED?

I'M SO SICK OF HOTELS.
AND THESE NOODLES ARE ALL BLAND AND SNOTTY.
NO SWEARING MEANS NO GOOD COOKS, I THINK.
GREAT. AND WE'RE STUCK HERE UNTIL THE TRUCK IS FIXED.
NOK NOK
MAYBE NOT?
OH?
I WONDER IF WHEN I BRAIN SOMEONE IN THIS TOWN, CANDY COMES OUT.
HEY.
YOU CALLED LAURIE?!
SLAM
CASSIE!
THAT RELATIONSHIP IS DEAD, AND YOU KNOW WHAT I DO TO THINGS THAT COME BACK FROM THE DEAD, BUDDY?
I CALLED HER, CASSIE.
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
BECAUSE WE ARE IN A BAD SITUATION, I THINK.
I DO NOT TRUST THIS MAYOR, NOR DO I TRUST HIS NO-SWEARING-MAGICS, HIS DOUBLE DARE SLIDE, OR HIS OFFICE WITH A DRAIN IN THE FLOOR.
WE NEED HELP.
flrrr


I AM SORRY LAURIE. PLEASE COME INTO THE ROOM.
HEY THERE. NO THANKS.
WANT SOME NOODLES?
THEY'RE TERRIBLE.
HOW ARE YOU, LAURIE, SINCE WE LAST SPOKE?
I'M SORRY I KILLED YOUR MOM--
LISTEN ABOUT MY MOM...
YOU FIRST.

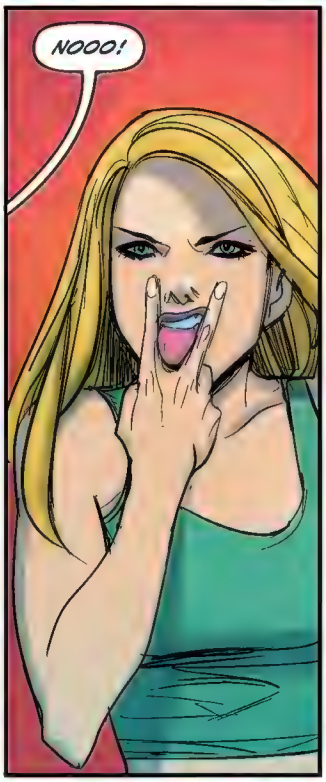

MY MOTHER WAS A COMPLICATED PERSON. SO ARE YOU.
BUT I'VE COME TO REALIZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU IS THAT YOU WANT TO DO GOOD, IN YOUR OWN STUPID, BLOODY, VIOLENT WAY, AND SHE WANTED TO ACTIVELY DO EVIL.
SO WE'RE--
CASSIE, YOU WERE REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME AT A TIME IN MY LIFE, AND VLAD SOUNDED SCARED ON THE PHONE.
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I AM TO YOU NOW, IT'S A LIFELINE OUT OF HERE, AND THAT'S IT, OKAY?
CAN YOU GIVE US A RIDE OUT OF HERE?
I CAN'T, ACTUALLY.
THE ONLY WAY I COULD GET HERE ON SHORT NOTICE WAS TO TAKE THE BIKE.
I'M SORRY.


COOL, STRANDED IN A TOWN RUN BY MAYOR DICK JIGSAW, AND MY EX SHOWS UP JUST TO LET ME DOWN.
WAS I, LIKE, A PUPPY-DROWNER IN A PAST LIFE?
CASSIE IS MEANING TO SAY, "THANK YOU, LAURIE."
I SEE THAT.
IF NOTHING ELSE, I'M ANOTHER WARM BODY TO FIGHT YOUR WAY OUT OF HERE.
JUST WHEN I FORGET THAT YOU'RE MY TYPE OF GIRL...
"...YOU GO AND REMIND ME."
SO WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?
LEAVE DARIO IN THE HOTEL ROOM AND PROVOKE THIS @#$-CLOWN INTO SHOWING UP.
I GUESS I DON'T BELIEVE THAT IN A PLACE WITH TRAP DOORS, BLEEPING IS ALL THEY DO TO PEOPLE WHO SWEAR AND MAKE A FUSS.
WELL, YOU READY?
@#$% YEAH.
HWUFFF

HEY ****STICK! BRING YOUR WRINKLED $%^HOLE OUT HERE AND FIGHT MY HALF-NAKED &&& BEFORE I HUNT YOU DOWN LIKE A BLOODHOUND AND MAKE TAPENADE OUT OF YOUR GUTTY-WORKS!
I'M NOT PLAYING WITH YOU, YOU ^%$#-FILLED @#$%-FOR-BRAINS SAD SACK OF *^%$!
SHOW UP AND GET BENT!
HEY, CASSIE?
YEAH, WHAT?
HMPH--!
THIS IS NOT SIMPLY MY LONELINESS TALKING, BUT I DO NOT THINK IT IS A GOOD TIME--

UM, SO--
DON'T GET TOO EXCITED.
RUMMMMMBLE
WHO THE #$%! ARE YOU?
NO ONE KNOWS WHAT DRIVES THIS DARK FIGURE TO HIS WORK, LIMITING SEX, VIOLENCE, AND CRITICAL THOUGHT ALL OVER WERTHAM. IN THE DARK OF THE NIGHT, HE APPEARS, TO LAY HIS MIGHTY STAMP TO THE FACES OF THOSE WHO WOULD SEEK TO CHECK OUT GROWN-UP BOOKS FROM THE LOCAL LIBRARY. HE IS--
--THE CENSOR.
CENSORED
KRAK
OW
GET OFF OF ONE ANOTHER.
I'D RATHER US GET OFF ON ONE ANOTHER.
BUT YOU SEEM TO HAVE SOME SORT OF PROBLEM WITH THAT?
HUH!

UM, ER--
HEY!


NOOO!

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO DO THAT HERE!

BUT GESTURES ARE--HNGKK-- NOTORIOUSLY--HRG--HARD TO CENSOR!
LAURIE!
HIT HIM!

WHAT THE--?!
THUK
BLOOD IS RATED M, GIRL.
WE DON'T HAVE THAT HERE.
OH YEAH?
YOU CAN CENSOR ALL THE BLOOD YOU LIKE, BUT AFTER EATING THOSE CRAPPY NOODLES, I'M PRETTY SURE SOMETHING'LL COME OUT IF YOU HIT ME IN THE GUT!
UNCLEAN!
OH DUDE, I'M FILTHY.
FLUMP
THAT'S M-RATED, TOO.

SO IT HAD TO GO.
AW, YUCK! I DON'T LIKE DICK PICS AT THE BEST OF TIMES--
--AND I LIKE THEM EVEN LESS WHEN IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS SEDUCED BY A WEED WHACKER.
CASSIE, HIT HIM!
TOO SLOW!
HUP--
OOOF!
TOO SLOW.
LAURIE!
CENSORED
YOUR MIND IS CLOUDED WITH LUST AND INDECENCY.
I WILL SET YOU FREE.
HE IS GOING TO KILL LAURIE!
WE HAVE TO DISTRACT HIM, HE'S CREEPILY SINGLE-MINDED.
THIS IS THE ONLY THING HE CARES ABOUT!

MMMMMMWAH!
MWAH--
STOP. CASSIE, STOP IT!
YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE THAT ANY MORE THAN YOU DO, BUT IF HE WANTS INDECENCY TO PUNISH--
IT ISN'T WORKING, CASSIE.
HE ONLY SEEMED TO THINK IT WAS INDECENT WHEN IT WAS YOU AND LAURIE KISSING.
OH.
ONLY WHEN IT WAS--
I SEE.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
VLAD, WOULD YOU EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT?
I HEARD A FIGHT!

HALT! HANDS WHERE WE CAN SEE 'EM!
HEY, WHAT'S THE DEAL?
THE CENSOR'S BEEN PATROLLING THESE STREETS FOR SOME TIME.
BUT ATTACKING VISITORS IN THE STREET IS A STEP TOO FAR. WE'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO UNCOVER HIS TRUE IDENTITY.
DID YOU EVER THINK TO LOOK INTO THE GUY WHO BUILT A NETWORK OF FLOOR-DRAIN BASEMENTS UNDER THE ENTIRE TOWN?
OH, WOW. ACTUALLY.
HEY BURT, WE SHOULD PROBABLY LOOK INTO THAT.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE SEVERELY LIMITING ACCESS TO BOOKS AND OTHER MEDIA REALLY DAMPENS THE DEVELOPMENT OF ONE'S CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS!
WHO WOULD HAVE THUNK?
NOW LET'S SEE WHO THIS JOKER IS--

MAYOR DICK WEINER?!
WELL, LIKE, OBVIOUSLY.
WHO THE HELL ELSE WOULD IT HAVE BEEN?
Y'ALL DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHEN I WAS BORN MY MAMA CALLED ME DICK WEINER! I NEVER HAD A CHANCE!
Y'ALL'S MERCILESS CRUELTY FILLED ME WITH SUCH A RAGE!
WE'VE GOT THIS ONE, BOYS.
YOUR SMALL-TOWN MAYOR ISN'T A HUMAN, HE'S A SLASHER.
HE PROBABLY DIED LONG AGO WITH A SADNESS OR ANGER DEEP IN HIS HEART, ONLY TO RETURN TO LIFE AND PUNISH HAPPY CAMPERS.
THE PRIEST MADE A DICK JOKE DURIN' MY EULOGY!
LEGALLY HE'S BEEN DEAD SINCE 1989, SO YOU CAN JUST HAND HIM OVER TO US FOR DISPOSAL.
LAURIE DID THE RESEARCH.
NOW LET'S GET OUR TRUCK FIXED AND BLOW THIS HELLHOLE.
THE END!
WAIT.
NAH.

HOW'S THE WOOD CHOPPING GOING, BUDDY?
EASIER NOW THAT I CAN SWEAR.
AND IT HELPS MY SADNESS ABOUT VAMPIRELLA.
SHE WOULD HAVE LOVED TO SCARE THE LOCALS IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
AWW, BUDDY.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO THE HONOR OF DISPOSING OF DICK WEINER'S CORPSE?
WHRRR
READY?
THREE... TWO...
KASHLUNK
FUCK YEAH.

HACK/SLASH

COVER & PIN-UP GALLERY

Omnibus Volume Six Kickstarter exclusive cover by
TIM SEELEY & SARAH MITRACHE

Omnibus Volume Six cover by
ROBBI RODRIGUEZ

Hack/Slash: Son of Samhain #2
cover A by STEFANO CASELLI

Hack/Slash Son of Samhain #4
cover A by STEFANO CASELLI

Hack/Slash Son of Samhain #4 cover B by
STEFANO CASELLI & EMILIO LAISO

Hack/Slash: Son of Samhain #5 cover A by
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Hack/Slash: Resurrection #2 cover A by
TIM SEELEY & ADDISON DUKE

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Hack/Slash: Resurrection #10
cover A by RICHARD PACE
KISS
PACE

Hack/Slash: Resurrection #11
cover A by TIM SEELEY

CASSANDRA CORDERO, VIAGO AND VAMPIRELLA.
C. 1879. SEELEY PORTRAIT STUDIO

Pin-up art by **CELOR** &
K. MICHAEL RUSSELL

Hack/Slash: Son of Samhain #1 convention exclusive variant by **ANDREI BRESSAN** & **ADRIANO LUCAS**

Pin-up art by **DANIEL LEISTER**

Pin-up art by DANIEL LEISTER

Pin-up art by RILEY HANNON

Pin-up art by HANA YAACOB

Pin-up art by JENN CHUN
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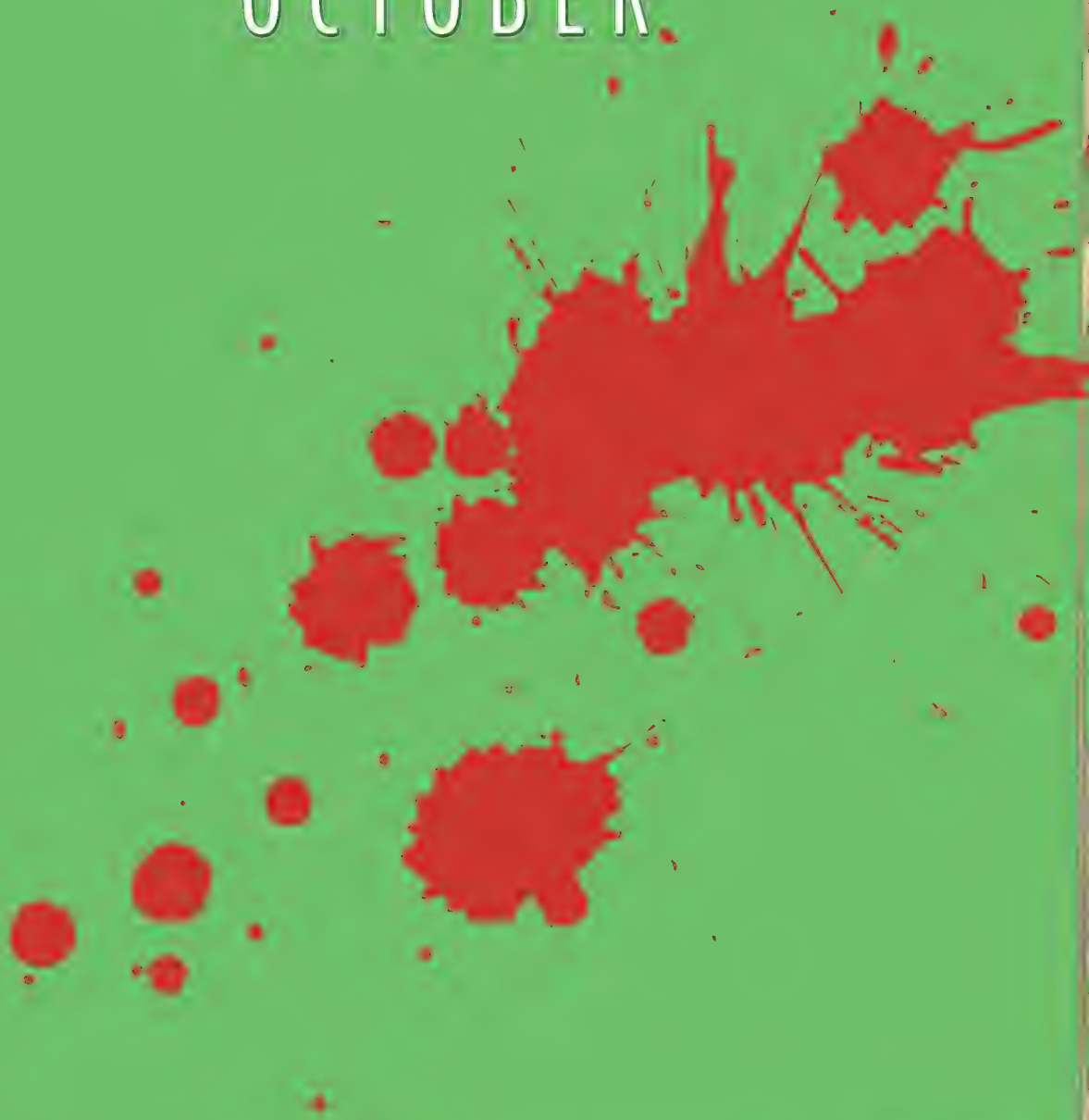
Pin-up art by AADI SALMAN

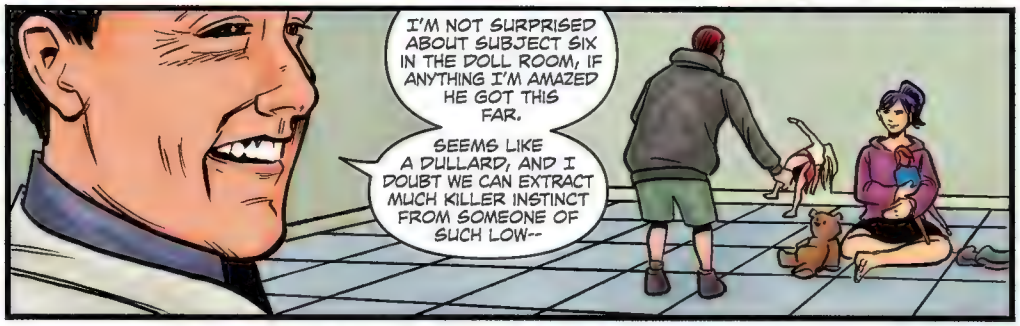
OCTOBER



MOTEL
WIFI
SYFY
4 HR NAPS
IT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH CONVINCING TO GET CASSIE TO STOP DRIVING FOR THE NIGHT.
SHE'S TOO PROUD TO ADMIT HOW TIRED SHE IS, SO I ACT LIKE I NEED TIME TO REST AND RECOVER.
I'VE COME TO LEARN THAT THIS IS WHAT A NORMAL HUMAN NEEDS. REST. RECOVERY.
I HAVE LEARNED TO IMITATE WHAT A NORMAL HUMAN NEEDS, WHAT A NORMAL HUMAN DOES.
YOU KNOW, FOR SUCH A BAD-ASS KID, YOU REALLY ARE BEING A BABY ABOUT THIS.
HSSSSS. OWWW!
THEY DON'T HAVE WHAT I HAVE. WHAT'S IN MY BLOOD.
HOW I SEE THE WORLD.

SHE
WANTS
TO
HELP
YOU
I SEE ARTERIES. PRESSURE POINTS. KILL SHOTS. ALL THE WAYS I CAN END A LIFE.
AND I SEE SOMETHING MORE.
I SEE MOTIVES. INTENTIONS.
A
B
CHILDREN, IF YOU'VE MADE IT PAST THIS MANY ROUNDS OF SELECTION IT IS BECAUSE WE HAVE IDENTIFIED SOMETHING UNIQUE IN YOU.
KLIK
WHAT'S A "UNIQUE?"
IT MEANS SPECIAL, DUMBASS.
HE'S SPECIAL, ALL RIGHT. SHORT BUS SPECIAL.
NOW, NOW, CHILDREN. SAVE THAT ENERGY FOR OUR ACTIVITY!
ACTIVITY! I LOVE ACTIVITIES!
KLIK
WELL, IT JUST SO HAPPENS WE HAVE TWO ACTIVITIES ALREADY IN PROGRESS IN OUR ACTIVITY ROOMS!
DR. WRIGHT, PLEASE DRAW BACK THE CURTAINS ON OUR VIEWING WINDOWS.

YOU MAY CHOOSE ONE ROOM TO PLAY IN FOR THE NEXT FIFTEEN MINUTES. ON THE LEFT WE HAVE DOLLIES AND STUFFIES.
ON THE RIGHT, WE HAVE OUR INFLATABLE BOBO DOLL AND ENOUGH SQUISHY BATS FOR EVERYONE. BEGIN!
INTERESTING.
KLIK


I'M NOT SURPRISED ABOUT SUBJECT SIX IN THE DOLL ROOM, IF ANYTHING I'M AMAZED HE GOT THIS FAR.
SEEMS LIKE A DULLARD, AND I DOUBT WE CAN EXTRACT MUCH KILLER INSTINCT FROM SOMEONE OF SUCH LOW--

SAY, WEREN'T THERE SEVEN KIDS?
DR. WRIGHT, WHO AM I MISSING IN THE BOBO ROOM?!
KLIK

INTELLECT.
NO NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT WE DO!
KLIK

DOCTOR WRIGHT, I BEG TO DIFFER! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR. THAT KILLER INSTINCT! SOMETIMES I WONDER WHERE YOUR HEART IS IN THIS LITTLE EXPERIMENT!
KLIK

YEARRRGH!!
KLIK
FUUUUUUUCK!!
YOU WANT KILLER INSTINCT, YOU GOT IT.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?! SOMEONE HELP ME!
THEY MAY HAVE SCORED HIGH IN BRUTALITY, BUT THEY'RE STILL JUST KIDS.
THEY'RE NOT JUST KIDS! THEY'RE THE CHILDREN OF SERIAL KILLERS, SLASHERS! AND ALL OF THEM, A DISAPPOINTMENT! ALL BUT YOU.
EXIT
I WAS WONDERING WHAT WE HAD IN COMMON.
DO THEY SEE LIKE ME?

HE WOULD USE YOU
HE WOULD ENSLAVE YOU
YES! THEY SEE ALL OF THE WEAK POINTS TO STRIKE, ALL THE BEST PLACES TO INCAPACITATE!
THAT'S NOT ALL I SEE.
I SEE WHAT YOUR INTENTIONS ARE.
"YOU INTEND TO CONTROL US. TO USE US AS WEAPONS FOR YOUR OWN PURPOSES. LIKE YOUR VERY OWN CHILD SLASHER ARMY."
"IT'S--IT'S NOT ME, IT'S THE CORPORATION!"
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT CORPORATIONS, THEY'RE NOT PEOPLE.
SPLP
FUCK!
BUT I KNOW YOU. AND I KNOW ONE MORE THING...
...I WORK ALONE.
KLK

YOU.
YOU DON'T BELONG HERE, DO YOU.
PLEASE DON'T KILL ME. I NEVER SHOULD'VE DONE THIS, I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP.
I SAW THE WAY YOU RAN TO THAT GIRL. YOU CAN'T HELP BUT BE GOOD.
EVEN IF IT MEANS MINGLING WITH THE BAD.
HANDS OFF
They're KIDS NOT LAB RATS!
LEAVE OUR KIDS ALONE!
"WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE CRUELTY OF THIS EXPERIMENT, OF THIS WHOLE FUCKING SYSTEM, I PROTESTED. I SIGNED PETITIONS, I MARCHED, I POSTED ALL MY HOLIER-THAN-THOU BULLSHIT ON SOCIAL MEDIA. AND NOTHING CHANGED. NOTHING EVER CHANGES."
THEN I THOUGHT... IF I JOINED THEM, IF I BIDED MY TIME AND WORKED FROM THE INSIDE...
...MAYBE I COULD SAVE A FEW OF YOU. EVEN JUST ONE.
WE'RE DEVELOPING AN INSTITUTE OF OUR OWN, DESIGNED TO TREAT AND REHABILITATE CHILDREN LIKE YOURSELF. THROUGH THERAPY AND GROUNDBREAKING NEW INNOVATIONS IN THE FIELD OF BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION YOU COULD LIVE A NORMAL LIFE, YOU COULD FINALLY FEEL GOOD ABOUT--
SHE WANTS TO HELP ME
SHE WANTS TO FIX ME
HOLY FUCKING SHIT!

POP
STOP TALKING.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I DON'T DESERVE TO FEEL GOOD.
HOLY SHIT, WHAT THE FUCK HAPPENED TO BIERCE?
AREA SECURE!
WHERE'S NUMBER 7?
"WHERE'S THE BOY?"
:YAWWWWWNNN:

I SLEPT LIKE THE DEAD. KILLING AN UNDERGROUND ARMY OF DAD-BOD ORCS WILL DO THAT TO YA...
OCKY?
Cassie, I'm sorry.
THE FUCK?
MOTEL
WIFI
SYFY
4 HR NAPS
End

REBORN TO DIE EVEN HARDER.

Okay, so maybe Volume 5 WASN'T the last omnibus! What can we say, there was so much more *Hack/Slash* to tell! Cassie Hack, lost and broken after the death of Vlad, must find her new place in the world... and kill a whole lot more monsters!

Another hefty brick of critically acclaimed horror goodness that contains the previously uncollected SECRET ORIGIN OF VLAD! Collects HACK/SLASH: SON OF SAMHAIN #1-5, HACK/SLASH: RESURRECTION #1-12, and HACK/SLASH: ME WITHOUT YOU (ONE-SHOT), plus an all-new story starring October Bourne by Dan Dougherty (*Touching Evil*, *Beardo*).

LUKE BOYCE, director and showrunner (Syfy's *Revival*) says "Cassie Hack has survived slashers, grief, gods, and legacy, but this volume proves that her story is far from over. It's bloodier, bolder, and more mythic than ever."

2026, COLOR, APPROX 448 PAGES / RECOMMENDED FOR MATURE READERS / HORROR

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